

SPEECHES

delivered by

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble

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G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G.,

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL,

during

1914-15.

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***Presentation of Kaiser-i-Hind Medal to Mr. D. H. Wares, I.C.S.,
on the 2nd April 1914.***

MR. WARES,

I have great pleasure in presenting to you the silver *Kaiser-i-Hind* medal which was awarded to you by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General on the 1st of January last. This medal is to reward public service in India ; and I am sure that no other medal of this class which was then awarded was more laboriously earned or more worthily deserved. On the occasion of the great flood in Burdwan district in August 1913, though the flood was the highest on record, the measures which you took to warn the people prevented any severe loss of life, while your careful and practical organisation of relief and your personal supervision of its distribution did much to help the rapid restoration of the district to its normal state in the following October. Your conduct implied a high degree of resourcefulness and coolness of judgment in the face of an unprecedented calamity ; and it was a pleasure to the head of the administration to learn that the one who was the District Officer at the time rose to the occasion.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Bengal Legislative Council
on 4th April 1914.***

GENTLEMEN,

I think that every one who wished to speak on the business which has been before this Council yesterday and to-day has spoken; it only remains for me to say a few words before we adjourn for some time. According to precedent I shall refer not merely to matters dealt with in the Budget, but to other matters also. First of all I thank all of you—officials and non-officials alike—for the help you have given me—help both in legislation and in administration. In the matter of legislation you have passed six bills: four of these have already become law, and two more are merely awaiting the approval of the Governor-General to become law. When we consider what has been done in cold weather sessions of Council in previous years, I believe we shall find that this output of legislation is quite up to the average. In the matter of administration my officers have all helped me as was their duty to do, but you, non-official members, have also helped me, by asking questions and by moving or speaking to resolutions, thus drawing the attention of my colleagues and myself to matters which, in your opinion, interest the people of Bengal for whose welfare it is our duty to work.

Of the Acts which we have passed into law—the Sanitary Officers Act introduces a new feature into the Provincial Municipal Act by providing for the admission of sanitary officers and Inspectors in mufassal municipalities; this, I hope, may prove to be an improvement. By the Doveton Trust Act we hope that greater effect may be given in future to the intentions of the founder of that Institution than has recently been the case.

The Calcutta Municipal Loans Act was much discussed, and I do not suppose that all of you look on it as perfect, but I think we will all admit that it is a step in advance, at any rate we all hope it may result in greater efficiency in the administration of the Calcutta Municipal finance.

The Chittagong Port Bill will, I hope, tend to enhance the prosperity of Chittagong, and I believe it meets with the approval of those of you who are most interested in that rising port. I need say little about the Bengal Medical Bill. It does not profess to accomplish a great deal, but I hope it is a first step towards corporate and self-conscious life in the medical profession in Bengal, and that it may help that profession to be more united in future, instead of being divided up, as I am afraid, it has to some extent been without much common professional feeling, and not without a certain amount of jealousy among its members.

• When we come to general administration, I would call your attention to three points which well deserve your attention, as they are to some extent starting points for further advance;—in the first place, we

We are now able to see that the Calcutta Improvement Trust is active and has begun operations. No doubt you will look carefully, as will also Government, at the actions of that Trust in future. Then there has been the Port Facilities Committee, which had been sitting lately under the Chairmanship of our Vice-President. I think we may all congratulate Mr. William Duke on the rapidity with which that Committee got through its work and prepared its report. We shall give close attention to the report, and I hope we shall find that it will lead to a start being made very soon in those improvements which certainly must be effected, if Calcutta is to continue to hold the prominent place which she at present holds amongst the cities of the East. Personally, I am anxiously awaiting another Report—the Report of the Administration Committee. I know that some of you do not expect as much good result as I hope for, from the appointment of that Committee; but both you and I—I am sure—realise the importance of general administration in the districts, and I believe that you will rejoice if the appointment of the Committee leads to some of the good which I expect from it.

I was glad to see how much interest was taken by all Hon'ble Members in Educational matters. After what Mr. Hornell said I need say little about these. I would, however, mention one point to which Mr. Hornell intended to refer, but which escaped his memory. The Hon'ble the Vice-Chancellor—Dr. Deba Prosad Sarbadhikari—yesterday expressed a desire to know about the fish-market site and was doubtful as to what was being done about it. The site has, as a matter of fact, been already acquired by Government, and Government is prepared to give it over to the University so soon as the University shall have obtained the sanction of the Government of India to the proposals which it is prepared to make for the use of that site, and can show how it will provide the necessary funds. I am under the impression that this information has already been conveyed to the University; but if there is any point on which my hon'ble friend wishes for fuller information, Government will be only too glad to do its best to give it. I regret that my colleague—the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon—should not be present to-day. He has asked me to correct any impression which may exist,—and I believe that such impression does exist,—that the large pending balances out of the Imperial grants indicate inability on the part of Government to utilise these grants. The Nawab Bahadur of Dacca for one expressed a fear that this was so. I sympathise very much with the Nawab Bahadur in his general dislike to keeping a large sum of money idle without spending it. Perhaps both he and I—certainly I—would be richer if we had not often thought alike on this matter; but be that as it may, Hon'ble Members must remember that these large grants, for which we are very grateful, fall far short of the growing demands of this Presidency and that therefore much care must be taken in examining the many calls on the public purse, so that Government may choose the best and most urgent schemes on which to expend public funds. It has been this consideration and not any inability to spend the money, which has led to the balances remaining unspent.

Another matter in which Mr. Lyon has been actively interested is the Bay of Bengal flood. This flood a few months ago caused us serious

'anxiety. There is one result of it over which we all rejoice, it showed how willing many of the people of Bengal are to work unselfishly for the good of their fellowmen. But there were other results not so pleasing. Public interest in these floods has to a great extent now died out, but it may not be out of place to tell you what the present position is. Three of the districts of the Burdwan Division, viz., Burdwan, Hooghly and Howrah, were restored to their normal condition early in the cold weather. In the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district relief measures were more prolonged. Collections of rents were suspended in the Government estates; the chaukidari-tax was remitted for three-quarters of the year; loans on a liberal scale were given to agriculturists, and special arrangements were made by the Public Works Department to provide work for all who required it, while gratuitous relief was given to those unable to work. These measures prevented distress from ever becoming acute, and the latest reports from the area are very favourable. There is every hope that if the coming season is a good one, all traces of the late calamity will soon disappear.

Many of you have shown great interest in the means of communication whether by rail or by water throughout the Presidency. Increased prosperity, growing wealth, and the advance of education will make that interest grow even more. I feel sure that the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon and Government as a whole will do their best to meet all reasonable demands in this matter.

I was also glad to observe your great interest in sanitation of which my colleague—the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shamsul Huda—has already spoken. In this connection I would merely say that I hope you are giving close attention to the scientific work which has been so ably done by Major Fry, by Dr. Bentley, and by Major Clemesha.

One point of general administration to which I would like to refer, is the complaint that the pay of menial servants is not what it ought to be. Rise in the price of food has undoubtedly given good ground for this complaint: that rise has pressed hard on many menial servants of Government. I am not in a position at present to say what the recommendations are which we are making to the Government of India, but you may take my word for it that Government is determined to improve the lot of its menial servants.

We have heard a good deal about the Police. They are much criticised and their faults have often been pointed out. Government does not profess that the Police are all that they might be; there is room for improvement, although there has been much improvement, and Government hopes gradually to secure more. But on behalf of Government, as well as of myself, I would like to say a word in recognition of the services which have been rendered by those of the Police whose duty it is to deal with the crimes which we believe are political. We know how dangerous and difficult it often is for those officers to perform their duty, and we admire the way in which in spite of being themselves only too conscious of that danger they have persevered in their task. We deplore the loss from time to time of the lives of some of our ablest and most devoted officers. I believe that you all have deplored that loss. It is the duty of Government to make provision for the dependants of

those officers, and Government, I hope, will always act up to this responsibility; though this is but a small consolation. It is only from time to time that the public come to know what excellent work is done by members of the Police force, and, therefore, I think it is but fair that I, who am constantly being reminded of the dangers which these men run, should take this opportunity of publicly expressing my admiration for their bravery. Speaking at Bombay on the 20th. of March the Viceroy expressed his admiration for the heroic qualities of these men who, as he said "with no watchword on their lips but duty have steadily gone about their work, carrying, as sad experience has proved, their lives in their hands." Like the Viceroy I feel sure that the day will come—when it will be recognised that those men have acted as bravely as any of the military heroes of whom we have so often read. If I were an Indian I should be proud to have those men as my fellow-countrymen. I am not an Indian, but as one responsible to some extent for the Government of India, I am proud to know that in the service of Government there are Indians who can show such fortitude in knowingly facing danger in the execution of their duty without any hope of great reward.

I now wish to say a few words on another matter—the state of affairs which causes this danger to which I have just referred. Speaking at Dacca last summer I said that I feared that the public of Bengal hardly realised what a risk some of the young men of Bengal were running. Much that I have learned since, makes me feel even more than I did then, the gravity of that risk; and makes me even more anxious than I then was, that all who can help by their influence to lessen that risk should do so. You, the non-official Indian members of my Council, are, I feel sure, as anxious as any one to put down political crime, in the interests of your own country which you love so well. Time and again you have told me this; and I believe you. I believe you hate as much as I hate, to read the aspersions sometimes cast—in ignorance—let us hope in misinformed ignorance—on Bengal in this matter. Many of you have told me that the political situation in Bengal—and I believe you—is better than it was; there is less ill-feeling towards Government than there once was. I rejoice, and you rejoice to know that. You are loth to think; you are right to be loth to think; you are hard to convince, you are right to be hard to convince,—that any of your fellow-countrymen are capable of acting as some of her detractors would have us believe that many in Bengal would like to act. But gentlemen, evidence which has been brought before me forces me to believe, and I think must force, however reluctantly, others to believe, that there is a small number—a very small number in proportion to the whole—of persons in Bengal, or connected with Bengal, who are prepared to go to extremes of crime, or to make others go to extremes of crime, if only they think they can thereby do harm to the established Government. And there is a slightly larger, but still very small number of people in Bengal—young men and enthusiastic men for the most part, who through ignorance—or, perhaps, I ought rather to say, through incomplete knowledge—are ready to be led by those more guilty than themselves to go to any length in crime, some in the firm belief that they are acting nobly. There is again a

number—actually, and still more relatively, small, of persons who though not prepared themselves to act, yet have a certain sympathy—varying no doubt in degree—with those who are prepared to commit crimes; and who may, under pressure of some emotion, pass out of the one category into the other. Gentlemen, I believe that what I have said is true. I believe that there is a great risk that some of our boys and young men—actuated perhaps even by generous motives—may join one of these bands. I do not ask you to accept this merely on my word; and you cannot have the evidence put before you which I have had put before me. All I ask you is to believe that there is evidence enough to make me—and I do not think I am prejudiced in any way—believe this. For I feel sure that there is not one of you who would not admit that if there are any such young men they are not only risking doing much damage to themselves, but may also cause much pain to their relations—and certainly are doing hurt to their fellow-countrymen, for by this they risk delaying the carrying out of reforms which will be for the good of their country. It is the duty of Government, if it be convinced that there is danger, to take such steps as it deems necessary; but I need not dwell on that. The real cure lies in public opinion, and I do appeal most earnestly to you, who obviously can affect public opinion to take any and every chance which may offer itself, to guide the young men of your country to look on the future of their country in a way less likely to do harm to it than I fear may be the case if they listen to the persuasions of some persons who are, I believe, at present anxious to influence them. Gentlemen, I say no more, but I declare this Council adjourned *sine die*.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the 7th Annual Session
of the Bengal Literary Conference, 1914, at the Town Hall, on
10th April 1914.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for the honour you have done me by inviting me to come here to-day to open the 7th Annual Session of the Bengal Literary Conference. I have heard a good deal of the work you are doing. In each of the two years during which I have been in Bengal, your meetings have been held in places other than Calcutta. This is the first time that Calcutta has been selected as your meeting place. It was with great pleasure that I arranged to delay going up to the hills this year in order to meet this assemblage of the most distinguished men of Bengal.

I am sorry, however, that I shall not be able to follow fully the details of the interesting proceedings—for such I am sure they will prove to be—as I have many things to do and not much time to do them in; but as they will be conducted in the vernacular which I have not yet mastered as I should like—perhaps this matters less. The key-note of these conferences, so far as I gather, is to further improve Bengali literature by bringing together the literary men from all parts of the Presidency to discuss topics of literary interest. It is gratifying to find that the subjects are not confined to literature alone, but embrace Philosophy, Science, History and Antiquity. The most valuable work that is done, and one which commends itself to all, is the research work on various subjects, the results of which are made known at these meetings. I fully sympathise with the efforts of the organisers of these conferences, and I shall be glad to see them crowned with success. You have a language and a literature, and you are right in trying to make that language and that literature of even greater value. I congratulate you on what you have done in the past; I hope you will be even more successful now and in the future, and I trust that your efforts will secure the appreciation not only of your own countrymen—who must, if they are to make the best of their country, have a thorough grasp of a language capable of accurately expressing all living ideas—but also of people of other races and of other tongues who wish to see ideas develop and come to full fruition wherever they originate.

I now declare the proceedings open.

Presentation of King's Police Medal on the 22nd May 1914.

CONSTABLE GOARIBIR RAI,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the King's Police Medal, a decoration which was instituted by His Majesty the King to recognise the good services rendered by members of the constabulary forces and fire brigades in the British Empire, and the heroic acts of courage and instances of conspicuous devotion to duty. In your case, the medal has been awarded for conspicuous gallantry. On the night of the occurrence of a dacoity in Purnea district in March 1912, you, along with Deputy Superintendent Shiba Prasad Regni, attacked a party of dacoits who were 30 strong and armed with guns. With a shot-gun you showed conspicuous gallantry at the risk of your own life, shooting dead one of the dacoits and wounding several others. I have pleasure in congratulating you on the grant of this reward, and trust that you will long live to wear this mark of your Sovereign's favour.

His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Buildings of Shree Vishudhananda Saraswati Vidyalaya on the 8th June 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

• Amongst my engagements on this brief visit to Calcutta, there is none to which I looked forward with more interest than the opening of your Vidyalaya. It was with great pleasure,—and I confess with some surprise,—that I heard you had collected, by voluntary subscription, the magnificent fund of nearly eight lakhs to launch your school on what I hope will prove a most successful and useful career. This is for me almost an unique occasion; I am able to enjoy some of the real detachment of a guest, without any disquieting speculation as to how much you are going to ask from my Government or how much my Government can afford to give you! Indeed the modesty of the last paragraph of your address astonishes me and I hasten to assure you that I shall be delighted, if I can, to assist you in any of the other directions to which you refer to ensure for your educational institutions the full measure of success, which your courage and enterprise so richly deserve.

• It would be out of place for me to expatiate before a Marwari audience upon the doctrine of Self-help; I know that the qualities of independence, perseverance, enterprise and integrity,—the qualities on which success in business and commerce are based,—are all connoted by the name you bear, while this splendid building and these spacious grounds bear testimony to that generosity and open-handedness which so often accompany and elevate a high capacity for business.

• Alive to the needs of your community, you lost little time, as your address states, in seeking to remedy them; and this Vidyalaya is an impressive monument to the qualities of the Marwari race. Gentlemen, I congratulate your community on its generous and patriotic citizens. You are rightly grateful to Babu Jahnammul Khemka, Rai Bahadur Hori Ram Goenka and Babu Hazarimul Duduwalla for their munificence. You, the Marwaris of Calcutta, are indeed fortunate in your leaders, and the splendid fund which you have raised, shows that there has been no want of liberality on the part of any of your subscribers.

• I listened with great interest to the story of the foundation and development of your Vidyalaya. It opened in 1901 in another building with a small number of boys on its roll; you now have nearly 900 boys. My colleague, the Hon'ble Sir William Duke, when telling me that you wished me to open your school, expressed his surprise that education beyond the primary stage was so widely extended amongst your community.

• You have evidently recognised that success under modern conditions demands each day more and more educational equipment.

I have heard of the small Marwari boy, who does arithmetic in his cradle, who treads on his father's heels in the stock exchange, and acquires an astute grasp of the ethics of business, while most other boys still know nothing of trade unless it be perhaps the exchange of toys. It is not to be wondered at if innate business capacity, forced into maturity by such a training, has placed the Marwari merchant in the forefront of Calcutta business-life. I believe you realise that it is not wise to refuse any weapons to your sons, which may render them more efficient in the struggle for existence, and that you recognise that experience has shown that the businessman cannot afford to despise the training and knowledge which school and University offer. It has been suggested that Marwaris, in spite of their astonishing success in trade, have not yet generally shown the wide outlook and ability to exploit new and unfamiliar fields which are essential to success in the high finance. But I hope you will do so some day and I congratulate you on the fact that your community recognises the value and importance of a good education, and on the practical and business-like manner in which you are making sure of it.

I see that your Vidyalaya is affiliated in English up to the Matriculation standard, and I look forward to the time when your boys will be able to pass on from this Vidyalaya to the University itself. You have achieved triumphs in business, and I see no reason why the practical genius of your race should not, if given proper opportunities, achieve equal success in the fields of science and of scholarship. At present, as your address states, you only aim at "imparting a sound commercial education to fit your boys for the higher trade and commerce of the country." But the time will perhaps come, when you may see in education for its own sake the best means of developing the highest qualities of your race.

I do not remember reading the remarks which my honoured friend, Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, addressed to you when he laid the foundation-stone of this Vidyalaya in August 1912. But I suspect that he, too, hinted at a future when higher education, no less than the sound and complete grounding which this institution will afford, will irresistibly attract the most gifted of your boys.

Meantime, gentlemen, no one can deny that you have done well.

I cannot help feeling that the opening of this splendid school marks a new era in the career of the Calcutta Marwaris.

Once more I congratulate you on the fine generosity and public spirit to which the existence of the school is due, and I congratulate you still more on the possibilities, which it opens out for your youth. The time, I am sure, will come when the Marwari community will take that more prominent part in the civic and political life of Bengal, to which their influence entitles them and for which their shrewd common sense and practical abilities pre-eminently fit them. I cannot doubt that the Saraswati Vidyalaya will play an important part in the development and advance of your community, and in now declaring it open, I trust it will have a most prosperous and successful career.

***His Excellency's Speech delivered at the Church Parade at Lebong,
• on 28th June 1914.***

[Delivery of the Badge of C. B. to Surgeon-General Hathaway.]

GENERAL HATHAWAY,

• It gives me great pleasure to hand over to you the Badge of a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath. • You received your first Commission in 1885, and it is a great pleasure to your many friends—amongst whom I am glad to count myself—that your long and meritorious service has been crowned by the high honour which His Imperial Majesty has seen fit to confer on you. You have seen active service in many parts of the Indian Empire; I find you took part in the Ruby Mine Expedition in Burma and earned the medal with two clasps. In 1895 you were present at the Relief of Chitral; in 1897-98 you aided in the operations on the Punjab Frontier, and in the same year earned the Tirah Expedition Medal with three clasps. Your services have not been confined to India—you added to your reputation in the South African War, and your service with the Cavalry Divisional Staff enabled you to take part in many of the most important engagements of the war. You shared in the Relief of Kimberley and took part in the battles at Paardeberg, Driefontein and Johannesburg. You were dangerously wounded at Diamond Hill, and your gallantry won you promotion for distinguished conduct in the field. Nor have you reserved all your energies for the sterner duties of war. I am one of those who believe that our work in India is helped by an interest and proficiency in all manly sports on the part of our officers, and your sympathies in this direction are well known wherever your duties have taken you. I am sure that all present at this Parade will join with me in congratulating you most heartily on the high honour bestowed on you and in hoping that you may still have before you many years of able and distinguished service. General Hathaway, I now fasten to your chest the badge which makes evident to all that His Gracious Majesty our King-Emperor has been pleased to recognise your long and valuable services.

His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of the Prize Distribution at the Sibpur Engineering College, on the 1st July 1914.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am glad that a short visit to Calcutta has enabled me to preside at the prize-giving of the Civil Engineering College, and to congratulate you, Mr. Heaton, your colleagues and the students on the successful work accomplished in the past year. This College is an Institution of very great importance to the future of Bengal. I am continually hearing of the difficulties felt by the *bhadralok* class owing to the rise in prices and in wages. I believe these are very real difficulties, and that not only in the interest of that class, but in the interest of Bengal as a whole, it is extremely desirable that an escape should be found from some of these difficulties: and possibly, as has been suggested, your College may help in this. Your College should surely be able to assist in the industrial development of the country. Even to-day, Mr. Heaton has told us, there are numerous and well-paid openings for trained mechanics and artisans: and I feel certain there will be many more such openings if employers of trained mechanics and artisans know that men can be found in Bengal capable of doing the work required by them. At present the openings are filled by men of the *mistri* class who have a hereditary inclination towards such work, while inclination and tradition lead the *bhadralok* youths into professions or Government Service. But I for one do not believe that this state of things can long continue. The clever and ambitious young men of Bengal will not allow the openings afforded by the industrial development of the country to be monopolised by one particular class. Ambition helped by economic pressure will lead the *bhadralok* youth to seek—as the analogous class of young men in other countries has sought—wider fields for employment. That Bengalis can excel in some walks of life is known far beyond the boundaries of Bengal. The fame of Rabindra Nath Tagore is as widespread as that of any living literary man. Recent exhibitions in Paris and London have shown to many in Europe that in the art of painting there is a living school here—healthy, because it is firmly rooted on old national traditions—as is your literature. Another gifted member of the Tagore family—Abanindra Nath Tagore is the best known of these men, but he is not the only one. There is his brother Goganendra. There are Nanda Lal Bose, Khitindra Nath Mazumdar and K. Venkatappa (who though a Madras has been edified with art here), all these men as artists are now known in Europe—perhaps quite as well as they are in Calcutta. In Science there is not an English man just now which does not bring the praise of Dr. J. C. Bose and there are very few men of science who can boast as he can that his discoveries have inspired the pencil of a Punch Cartoonist; gentlemen, I do not see why we may not look forward with confidence to the time when Bengalis of the highest class—and of every class—will show as great an aptitude for industrial pursuits as they now show for medicine or the law; and

when the same quantities which produce good works of art and fine scientific experiments shall also show mastery of material in other and more money-producing directions.

I am glad to see from the annual report that football, hockey and cricket are played by your students, and that the College holds a good position in these sports. Games played by a team and in which each member has to play not for his own hand, but for his side, teach lessons of discipline and *esprit de corps* which cannot be learned in the class room. Volunteering too is of great educative value to young men. The College has the distinction of possessing the oldest Volunteer Company of Engineers in India, and it is satisfactory to find that this Company has shown high efficiency during the past year.

I was greatly struck by the fact that there is not a single Muhammadan student in the College. Any proposals which may be submitted for attracting Muhammadans to the College will certainly receive full and sympathetic consideration from my Government.

Now, gentlemen, I dare say you expect me to say something as to the immediate fate of the College—as to whether it is to be moved away at once, and if so, where to. I do not wonder at your wanting to know about these things. You are right to want to know them. Ignorance about them must, I admit, hamper you and must delay much-needed improvements. Still I am sorry to say I must disappoint you. I can say nothing definite. I can only say what I dare say has often been said before, that Government does realize the importance of the matter and does, I hope, feel its responsibility to the people of Calcutta, to the people of Bengal; that there are many things which have to be considered, many points of view from which things must be looked at. Blame if you like an ignorant Governor with no past experience to guide him, for not at once seizing on some solution and pressing it through, but if you do blame me, at any rate remember that those who advise me are not neglecting any point, and are considering everything most carefully. Some minds have been changed—no doubt for good reasons—but that always forces one to go more warily. When the decision comes, I can only appeal to you all to make the thing a success, and I appeal with confidence for I know you all love this country and the profession you mean to follow, and so are determined to make the best of that profession for the sake of this country.

His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of the opening of New Buildings of the St. Paul's Cathedral-Mission College, on 3rd July 1914.

MR. HOLLAND, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure to me to be here. I am always interested in the opening or extension of any educational institution.

It would indeed be curious if any Governor of Bengal—especially if like myself he is a Scotman—did not feel a quickening of his interest and of his sympathies on being confronted with the problems, which your schools, colleges and University are manfully trying to solve.

Many people think that education in Bengal is at present passing through a most critical and crucial phase. There are some—a small minority—who would gladly set the clock back. They trace our political troubles and economic discontent to a rash and injudicious spread of English education, and they think that if the rulers of India had offered education to its people with a more niggardly hand, our difficulties would not, perhaps, have been as acute as they are. I confess, gentlemen, to a feeling of some impatience, when I meet with this view, for it seems to me that British policy on a matter of this kind must be consistent. I do not often enlarge upon the benefits of British rule; it always seems to me that our achievement in India, even if we admit that we have made mistakes, speaks for itself in no uncertain tone, but I do take pride in knowing that the British Raj in India has from its beginning always stood for enlightenment and the spread of education.

We could never—if we were true to our traditions—have done anything but strive to educate India. If, however, our critics maintain that our educational policy has sometimes been ill-advised, or not based on facts, we may, I think, readily enough admit that there have been errors.

When we look back through the helpful perspective of time to Macaulay's famous despatch, the idea suggests itself to us that some of the crudeness and superficiality of our educative results, might have been avoided and would have been avoided if the early administrators of British India had only had the knowledge, which experience has given us. But we have begun to take stock. The serious study of educational problems which—though not for so many years—has called for the attention of thoughtful men in Europe and in America, is informing and pervading Indian thought.

The problems which the school, the college and the University present, are daily being more studied, and I look forward with confidence and gladness to a time when the somewhat chaotic diversities of our Indian system of education shall be co-ordinated and unified—without however being stereotyped into one dull mould.

Mr. Holland, you hope in your new college to avoid some of the defects which you see in our present Collegiate system. You have decided to keep the number of students within a limit of about 200, with

the object of soon making the college wholly residential and of making close personal intercourse possible between the staff and the students. You aim not merely at imparting knowledge, but also at instilling the spirit of discipline and independent judgment into your students. •

In your eloquent address you told us that it is not merely for the success of your colleges, as it is at any time constituted that you mean to work. No doubt you will see your immediate reward in the class and in the playing fields, but you are more ambitious for your boys; with the University left behind, you expect them to leave their mark on the national life of Bengal, and you look even further than Bengal: you look to them to influence India as a whole, to be loyal citizens of the Empire and finally to forward the progress of mankind. ..

We know that you must have some failures and disappointments; few of us perhaps can rise to the high ideal which you hold before you, but we all, I am sure, feel that the very height of your ideal will help you to success if only you can persuade your boys to look at as you do. I cannot help thinking that the evil results which are attributed by some to education are due to the fact that education has aimed too exclusively at imparting knowledge and too little at training character. In a small self-contained college such as you intend this to be, you will start with advantages which, guided and utilised by the spirit of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice, on which your society is founded, must, I hope, help to success, and which perhaps will lead to the establishment of other colleges, equally well equipped and inspired by similar ideals. .

I congratulate you on your fine playing fields. Calcutta has grown so rapidly, land here has become so valuable that few colleges can find proper scope in this direction. They have to be content with a share and not even all of them with that—in one of the cities' recreation grounds which are all too few. You are fortunate in having ample playing fields of your own; they will be a valuable asset in that training for the University and the world, at which, as you have told us, St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College will aim.

Mr. Holland, ladies and gentlemen, I have spoken at greater length than I intended; it only remains for me to wish you and your staff—and this I do with all my heart—the success, which courage and enthusiasm deserve; when in a few moments, I shall unlock this college building, I trust that I shall not only be symbolically unlocking stores of learning to the students, who shall pass through your gates, but that I shall indeed be helping to open up for Bengal and for India that vista of happier, stronger and more devoted citizenship for which you, Sir, so eloquently and so earnestly plead.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
CALCUTTA;
The 10th August 1914.

DEAR FRENCH,

I write to ask you to let the people of Mymensingh know how sorry I am that I have had to postpone my visit to the head-quarters of their district. I fear this may have caused them some inconvenience, but I feel sure they will recognize that I am right to remain in Calcutta just now, and will forgive me. I still hope to go to Mymensingh before long. But as I cannot yet say anything about this definitely, and as I know how anxious people there are to know what Government think about the future constitution of the district, I should like to give them some information without further delay.

At the Durbar which I held in Dacca last year, I announced as the deliberate opinion of my colleagues and myself in Council that the district of Mymensingh ought to be divided. That was my conviction then, and I hold it even more firmly now, for longer experience of this country has made me realise more clearly the advantages which a sound system of Local Self-Government would secure to Bengal.

It seems to me that it will be very difficult to introduce Local Self-Government at all into a very large district—at least if it is to be Local Self-Government worthy of the name. Speaking for myself, I doubt whether it can be done with any chance of real success.

Outside of Municipal areas Local Self-Government is but little understood in this country. The District Board indeed is self-government, but it can hardly be considered Local Self-Government in the sense of enabling the people in any particular place to manage their own purely local affairs. If Local Self-Government is to be genuine, it must be applicable to small local units. Wise supervision of these units will always be necessary in this country, as it has proved to be in every other; at first it will be particularly necessary in order that those who are imbued with the public spirit, which alone renders self-government of any kind effective, may be encouraged and guided to make full use of their opportunities. If the units are very numerous, it may easily prove impossible for the officer ultimately responsible for their supervision to give them due attention. Should this be the case in any district, however well suited it may be for Local Self-Government otherwise, there can only be failure which may set progress back for a long time to come. I believe this would certainly be the case in any district where the district officer has already more work to do than he can properly attend to.

In order to fit in with our existing system of administration, the ultimate responsibility for supervision must,—whatever may be the subordinate agency employed,—rest with the district officer.

The district is the unit on which the whole of our system of administration is based; and the district officer is ultimately responsible for the good administration of his district in every branch of public welfare.

Unless, therefore, we are to change our whole system we must, from time to time, divide any district where, owing to the growth of population, or the development of administrative work requiring supervision, it is no longer possible for the district officer to be personally familiar with the whole area under his charge, as fully as in the interests of the district as a whole he ought to be. I have no doubt in my own mind, that it has for a long time been beyond the powers of even the most capable district officer to supervise the district of Mymensingh as he would have liked to supervise it. I feel only too certain that much has been left undone—because it was not possible to do it—which would have added to the material well-being of the people if it had been done.

It has been suggested that all that is required in Mymensingh district is an improvement in the means of communication. This would certainly help materially. Improved means of communication are sorely needed, I shall continue to do my best to secure them. But I feel certain that they will only make it more evident how impossible it is for one district officer to discharge in a really effective way all the duties which the public have a right to expect of him in so large and populous a district.

Where, too, natural resources are so rich, we can surely look for further rapid development.

These are the reasons why I sincerely trust, for the sake of the people of Mymensingh district, that the division so long talked of may not be much longer delayed.

I promised last year at Dacca that before Government took any actual steps to carry out their determination to divide the district, we should explain what our proposals are and invite criticism. I write this letter as a first step in fulfilment of that promise.

We know that any change must cause inconvenience to some individuals, in some cases there must even be loss. These, no doubt, will be put up with in the general public interest; but it is our duty to restrict them within the narrowest possible limits. Both in the broader outlines of our scheme and in details our aim will be to cause as little hurt as we can to those whose arrangements have been made in the expectation that the present district boundaries would not be altered.

We think that three new districts ought to be formed.

We propose that one of these should, as might be expected, have its head-quarters at the town of Mymensingh and include Netrokona, which will, we hope, be in direct railway communication with Mymensingh.

In another district we propose to include both Tangail and Jamalpur. Its head-quarters will be reached by direct railway lines from each of these towns and also from Mymensingh. We cannot as yet say what the exact position of the head-quarters will be; that will depend on the decision of the Railway Board as to the alignment of a new railway which, we hope, may be of great service to many people who do business with Calcutta and other places.

The third district will have its head-quarters at Kishorganj. A railway line from Bhairab Bazar to Netrakona will, I hope, pass through Kishorganj, thus securing easy connection with Mymensingh.

These are the main points in our proposals, and Government will soon put forward more detailed information as to the distribution of subdivisions and other matters.

It will take time to carry out the scheme and there may even be delay in making a beginning; but I hope there may be no delay without good cause. I have talked with many gentlemen who will be affected. They have told me quite frankly that they cannot welcome charges which will cause them inconvenience or in some cases loss. But more than one has told me that if he is convinced that I and my colleagues think the changes necessary in the public interest, he will patiently acquiesce. The generosity and unselfishness which prompt this acquiescence command my admiration, and while I must say clearly that my mind is quite made up on the larger issue, I am ready and willing to consider all suggestions as to details.

Yours sincerely,

CARMICHAEL.

His Excellency's Speech at the Meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council, on the 11th August 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

I have summoned you to this meeting not because there is any business in the ordinary sense of the word to be done, but because I feel it is right, and I know that many of you feel it is right, for us to meet and express our loyalty to our King-Emperor at this time. I feel too that there is advantage in our showing to the people of Bengal that, not only is the Executive Government alive to their needs and determined to do all it can to meet them, but that the representatives of all classes and communities—whatever their creed or even their race—are also alive to those needs and are as determined as Government servants are to meet them, and what is even of more importance that they are determined to meet them in co-operation with Government, thus making it clear that our common loyalty is a real bond which firmly knits the people of India and the people of Great Britain together and adds to the strength of each. I shall ask you to declare that—

“This Council desires to convey to His Majesty the King-Emperor an assurance of its profound loyalty and devotion to his Throne and Person; and to express its entire confidence in the Government by law established in British India, and to place on record its firm resolve to co-operate with that Government in carrying out all measures which may be found necessary to secure the safety or welfare of the people.”

Gentlemen, the loyalty of Bengal is undoubted. There may be a few men—to whom in less troublous times attention naturally turns, who would like to upset the Government of the King-Emperor, but the vast majority of our people—practically all—are loyal in the true sense of the word. I do not labour this point. To me the fact seems undoubted—you know how far it is true, if it is true you will in all wise ways prove it.

War is a terrible thing, how terrible few if any of us perhaps yet realise; we may be going to realise it to the full. The news that the whole British Empire was involved in war came on me suddenly. Little wonder if we all stood aghast. Little wonder if to some of us the more terrifying aspects of war loomed large. We had not all realised how united we are and that too added to the gravity of the situation. But we have realised it now. We begin to dwell on what is encouraging. Here no less than in every other part of the Empire we hold together. We feel that we have no need to fear each other. British business men recognise that Indians, as Indians, will not seize on chances to do damage to their property, and Indians realise that British troops of all arms will, if need be, defend the lives and property of Indians quite as bravely as they will fight for their own.

If disturbance should break out we all know that the most insignificant *modi*, who depends on his small stock of wares for his livelihood,

can look for the same protection as the owner of the largest mill or the most elaborate machinery.

Those of us who have gone into the matter feel that His Imperial Majesty and his advisers in entering into the war did so for a cause which we believe is righteous. We do not know much, for that has not hitherto been our business about the organisation on which our success in war depends, but we believe that it is as good as conscientious men can make it.

As far as India is concerned, this organisation is in the hands of the Viceroy and his Government. We trust the Viceroy ; we shall gladly do all that he may call on us to do.

In Bengal, I hope the people trust the Government and believe that Government will do its best ; I know that Government trusts the people to help where they can. The people can help us—some more than others—you, non-official members of my Council, can help more than most. You can help us by calmly thinking things out, by considering any proposals which may be suggested, by selecting what is good, by doing yourselves such things as you can do, and when you think Government help is required by not being in too great a hurry for an answer, and by remembering that even Government cannot always do everything. Those are, simple matters, but they are very important. We, the Executive Government, on our side shall consider proposals, and if we think you can give us help by getting information, by spreading information, or in any other way, we shall not hesitate to ask for it.

There was much anxiety, there still is much anxiety about trade and commerce, but it grows less. People realise that things adapt themselves to altered circumstances. Most of the anxiety is due to causes which those only with technical knowledge understand. I believe the merchants and large traders who do understand them recognise that the Government of India, and in a lesser way my Government, has tried to give help to them. Many of the ways by which commerce can best be helped lie outside of India altogether. We have been clearly reminded how much we depend on England—on London. Till things are steady there, things can hardly be steady here. But there is rapid improvement, and we hope soon to get all help we need to enable us to help ourselves. The jute industry is the all in our thoughts. No one knows better than Government does the importance of that industry.

We are considering it in every aspect, we are getting full and accurate information. I put forward no proposals, but I assure you that there is nothing to which I personally am giving more thought. We recognise the importance of that other great industry—the tea industry—of not losing its labour force.

Trade must be seriously checked—nothing can prevent that. There must be loss to all, but it is Government's interest quite as much as that of any one—and it is the interest of all—not to allow employment to fall off more than can be prevented. We know that those who must suffer most if trade and commerce shrink are those who can least afford to suffer. We recognise that if mills cannot work at a profit, mills must stop, and mill-hands must be thrown out of work ;

we know what a danger that may become. The mill-owners will help us. If they are forced to close their mills, they will give us warning: so that we may be prepared. Perhaps then you, too, may do something. You may know where labour is needed, if so, you can. Government at least will try to guide labour where employment can be found.

The price of food-stuffs and of the necessities of life has been brought prominently before us. What has been done elsewhere has been pointed out, and we have been asked what we intend to do. We are doing what we can. We are ascertaining facts. We have appealed to those who control the markets, and I am glad to say I hear they are helping us. Taken as a whole prices have not risen to an alarming extent. Some of them have not risen at all. Others which did rise are now falling. We are well aware of the danger and that we shall not fail to take any lawful steps to prevent any unjustifiable rise in the prices of necessities. Nothing can be meaner than for private persons to make money out of public difficulties, and certainly we shall do our best to prevent it. In this too, perhaps, we can get help from some of you, my non-official colleagues. It has been stated that individuals trading on the nervousness of the poorer and more ignorant classes have by false representations bought currency notes much below their value. Surely you can help to make it more widely known, if that be necessary, that a ten-rupee note is worth ten rupees so long as Government is solvent; and that there can be no doubt that Government is solvent.

The responsibility of Government is great and Government recognises that responsibility. Your responsibility is also great; I believe that you recognise it to the full. There are many proofs of this. We have only to look at our newspapers. I do not refer to one newspaper to which I might refer, for I know how immediately one of you is connected with it. But there was an article yesterday in another newspaper not as a rule very closely associated with Government views—which I daresay many of you read entitled "How the Government can help the people in the present crisis." I read that article, and it struck me that it might quite as well have been entitled "How the people can help the Government," for the one lesson was quite as clearly put forward as the other. It very clearly pointed to ways in which mischief may be produced and I think that if those outside of Government do their best to understand these, they will be helping us, for in many of those matters that which is needed most is confidence.

I think I have now said enough. I feel I can confidently appeal to you to help in the greatest need of the present moment. Through the mists of ignorance small dangers may easily loom large. You, gentlemen, are not ignorant. You have many of you great powers of persuasion. You can use your powers to enlighten the ignorant and reassure the timid. I cannot now do better than remind you of the old words of the Hebrew Prophet "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

***His Excellency's Speech at the Bengal Legislative Council,
on 1st September 1914.***

GENTLEMEN,

We have got through the business for which we were summoned; but before adjourning, perhaps I ought to say one or two words about the general position with regard to Bengal and what is going on in other parts of the world. It is not much that I need say. The position has not changed greatly in its general features, since we last met here. We realise more clearly what war actually means. It causes dislocation to trade and commerce, and all the usual occupations of mankind. I think it is most satisfactory to see, that whereas in no country did war paralyse trade more than in England, it recovered more rapidly there than in any other country. It is gratifying to all of us to see how the people of Bengal have realised their position and are trying to adapt themselves to the altered conditions.

2. I need hardly refer to the larger aspects of trade and commerce. These are not matters with which my Government has much to do; they are more the concern of the Government of India. But I think that those who are engaged in commerce realise how much that Government is doing. We all realise the splendid way in which men who are feeling the effects of the state of affairs are doing their best to help the Government and the people. We certainly recognise that. I think that everybody knows now that what is good for Calcutta is good for the whole of Bengal. We know that ships are not available now to take away the produce. It was not anticipated at first that there would be so much difficulty in obtaining tonnage. Trade has had a bad set-back and is not brisk, but as soon as tonnage can be secured, trade will revive. I do not know when the end is coming, but the end must come some time, and then ships will be procured. But I fear that things may get worse before they get better. As regards the smaller trade, we now feel that the jute cultivators realise that there is no reason why their jute crop should not be cut.

3. We are also glad to recognise, from many gentlemen, that attempts may be made, whether by way of reviving old industries or starting new industries, to add to the prosperity of Bengal. Very many are asking whether Government should not encourage that sort of thing. Well, so far as Government can encourage this, I am sure Government will do it, but we must remember that Government cannot go beyond its proper province. We must be content at first with small results, and perhaps those who have money to invest must not expect very much profit. At any rate it is a most practical way in which to show devotion to their country. Those who have energy to put into the work will be glad if they see their energies successful; though, perhaps, not on a very large scale.

4. One matter to which reference seems to be necessary, is the rise in the price of food stuffs. As you all know, we have appointed an Advisory Food Committee in Calcutta, which is doing its best

to look into the matter, and I am glad to say that nothing very unsatisfactory at any rate has happened. The rise in prices has not been very large, and in some cases the prices are even lower than usual: One thing Government has done. It is taking care that the prices in Calcutta should be made known to the district officers weekly, so that they may deal with unnecessary rises in country produce.

5. Fears have been expressed by some people that there may be trouble owing to the shortage of the demand for labour in mills; Government are quite prepared for that, for the Chamber of Commerce and the proprietors of mills have kindly promised to give us all information in their power, so that we may be prepared for any disturbances that may happen. I hope the distribution of police forces is such that we can deal with any emergency in any district; and there would be no difficulty in mobilising an extra force if necessary.

6. There is one other matter to which I may refer. I have great pleasure in saying that some gentlemen have promised us their services as special constables to deal with any peculiar circumstances which may arise. I believe that hitherto Indian gentlemen have not usually been willing to assist the police in this way. I am glad to say that there are some most respected Indian fellow-citizens,—some members of this House,—who are perfectly willing to come to our assistance and serve as special constables. I take this opportunity of acknowledging how much Government owes to certain gentlemen who, as special constables, have given us help in dealing with German and Austrian subjects who unfortunately find themselves in Bengal at the present moment. I need hardly say anything more except to thank everyone who has tried to keep Government informed of the state of affairs and to dispel unnecessary fears among the people. I think it ought to be known that Government is doing its best to keep a watch on what is happening; and that if any emergency arises, Government is prepared to meet it.

7. I now adjourn the Council *sine die*.

His Excellency's Speech at the Presentation of C. I. E. Badge to Mr. Birley, Magistrate of Dacca, on 8th September 1914.

MR. BIRLEY,

I have great pleasure in presenting to you the badge of the Companionship of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, which was conferred on you by His Majesty the King-Emperor in June last.

You have had varied executive experience in Bengal; in all the appointments you have held, you have shown vigour and thoroughness, and you have never spared yourself in doing your duty.

By general consent of Military and Civil observers alike, your arrangements and co-operation assisted in a material measure to make the concentration of troops at Dacca last February a success.

I trust that you may be long spared to wear this mark of your Sovereign's favour.

***His Excellency's reply to the Joint Addresses presented at Mymensingh,
on 9th September 1914.***

GENTLEMEN,

I have not forgotten the welcome you gave me two years ago. The remembrance of it made me all the more vexed when owing to circumstances which you understand I had to give up visiting you, as I had hoped to do last month, and that remembrance, no less than your kind reception of me to-day, makes me very sorry indeed that my wife could not be with me now. I shall tell her what you have said, for I know how eagerly she looked forward to visiting Mymensingh, and I know how disappointed she, too, was when she could not have her wish. I thank you for your assurance of devotion to the Throne and Person of our beloved King-Emperor, so feelingly expressed in all the addresses. It is most right that we should, both collectively and individually, in every way we can, show our loyalty just now when our country is engaged in war.

I shall convey your expressions of sympathy to our Viceroy. The crushing blow which came to him so suddenly must make the fresh anxiety for his wounded son seem doubly hard. I am sure we all unite in sincere prayer that he may have strength to bear the burden of his grief. Two years ago, we discussed the difficulties connected with the administration of your district. I said to you then that I should not come to any hasty decision, and that before final orders were passed those interested would have opportunity of making their views known to Government.

Last year, at a Durbar in Dacca, I told you that I felt convinced that the district must be divided. I could not then tell you more, for I did not know what the Railway Board were likely to do. The question has been constantly before Government and we have tried to give due weight to everything which bears on it. The other day when I found I could not come here, I wrote to Mr. French, for I thought it only fair to let you know at once the conclusions to which I had come. I asked him to tell you my reasons for thinking that there ought to be division and how, as it seems to me, the division may best be made. I am sorry that many of you are against division, for I am sorry to do what those whom I am called on to govern dislike; but I feel absolutely certain that without a division the people of the district cannot have some of the things they most need; and I should be wrong if I allowed any wish to please my friends to prevent or even delay benefit to the people as a whole. The Mymensingh Association ask me to put division off until the proposed new railways have been working for a time. The need for these railways is urgent. They cannot be pushed on too rapidly; but it seems to me they must lead to great expansion in your industries and growth of population. The railways can in fact only emphasise the things which make me think division desirable; and having regard to the welfare of the people I cannot postpone dealing with what seems to me a crying need. It is sometimes

alleged, though not in any of your addresses, that division is a device to provide good salaries for European officers. Gentlemen, that is not true. If more officers are needed in the interests of the people, they ought to be provided, whether they be Europeans or whether they be Indians, and they ought to be properly paid. I believe more officers are needed in the interests of the people and that is why Government hopes to get them. As a matter of fact, if we are allowed to carry out our proposals as regards Mymensingh, we only anticipate an increase of ten or eleven superior officers of all classes, and of these not more than two or three are likely to be Europeans. Allowing for the additional officers at present employed we shall need as extra officers, one member of the Covenanted Civil Service who may be either a European or an Indian—four members of the Subordinate Executive Service, who will be Indians, presumably Bengalis,—one superior police officer, who will probably be a European,—two medical men—but unless there is an increase in the Indian Medical Service cadre for Bengal, I fail to see how this can add to the number of Europeans employed,—and two additional District Engineers who will be appointed by the District Boards and who will no doubt be Europeans or Indians as seems best to the members of those Boards. Besides these ten officers, I think we may need an Additional Judge who may also be a European. This will be for the High Court to decide. I think that any fair-minded man who has thought till now that a desire to provide places for European officers has anything to do with the Government scheme, will, when he realises the truth, admit that he has been mistaken. Had such a desire actuated us, we should have been much more likely to have tried to attain our aims, as far Local Government is concerned, by forming a Local Government Board on the English lines as some Indian critics have generously suggested we should do. Such a scheme would certainly secure employment for highly-paid European officers, and from the point of view of efficiency, much may be said for it, but if the English system were understood, it would, I fear, hardly commend itself to those who suggest it, for it would run directly counter to some of their cherished political ideals. In any case such a system would be an absolute departure from the existing plan of Government in India, based as that is on the responsibility of the District Officer, and we ought, I think, where we can, to develop an existing machinery rather than form an entirely new one; besides as far at least as I am concerned, my hopes go out far beyond the subjects with which the English Local Government Board is concerned—in the direction of primary education for instance. It is generally admitted that local self-government in Bengal is not all it might be. The centralised form of administration in the District Boards has its merits. You here, I feel sure, do your best, and you have a very much larger income than most District Boards—six lakhs, I think, it is. But even here, I am sometimes told of imperfection in such matters as sanitation or medical relief. I do not wonder! I fail to see how any one Engineer or any one Medical Officer, whose area of jurisdiction extends over 6,000 closely inhabited square miles, can give all the attention such a district has a right to expect. It seems to me time to set to work at the other end and to

improve the small local bodies which experience in other countries shows ought to be the foundation of the whole structure, for without improving these I fear we shall never have real self-government in Bengal.

You know, I believe, that we are making experiments in what is called the Circle System—a system to guide and control President-Panchayats. You know what Union Committees are. We hope to extend these; and we hope by amalgamation of the functions of Chaukidari Panchayats with those of the Union Committee, and by the extension of the system of Circle Officers to make a distinct advance. I daresay some of you know Mr. Gupta, the present Collector of Rangpur. I have been much impressed by what he has told me about the working of the circle system, and I have been much impressed by what the members of the recent District Administration Committee have told me. My great desire is to bring our officers into closer touch with the people both in order to give the officers themselves a better chance of being useful, and in order to bring out local unofficial talent: I have been told that some landlords and their representatives object to division just because it will bring our officers into closer touch with the people: and will thus lessen the power of landlords to deal with their tenants as they will. I can hardly believe that many landlords are actuated by this consideration, but if any are, it is the strongest argument I have yet heard in favour of division.

That some people will be put to inconvenience I know. Three classes in particular will, I believe, be adversely affected. The older pleaders will lose for the moment some of their business which will go to younger men: the larger landholders may have to build and equip additional offices, and Government's own servants will, till all the new arrangements are complete, not be as comfortably housed as we should like them to be. But I gladly recognise how unselfish these classes are as a whole when wider interests are involved; and I can promise that Government will do its best to make their inconvenience as few as possible.

- The Municipal Commissioners fear that the division of the district may entail heavy loss upon the municipal revenue. I hope that fear will prove baseless; for in the near future Mymensingh is certain to become an important railway centre; and I have no doubt that this will result in an increase in the population of the town and a very substantial rise in the value of urban land and house property.

To come now to other things. Government sympathises heartily in your wish to have educational facilities equal to your demand: you have had proof since I was here that your interests are not forgotten. The affiliation of the Ananda Mohan College has been extended and its status raised. The Director of Public Instruction knows well the needs of the secondary schools; he fully recognises the want of more primary education. But alas, neither he nor we can achieve the impossible. We cannot do more than our income allows. There are many districts in Bengal, and many more throughout India, all clamouring for increased facilities. The money which India can provide out of its revenue is limited, and the utmost we in Bengal can do, is to make the best use we can of the funds put at our disposal.

You have not made as much progress with your drainage during the last two years as I hoped you would. Your drainage scheme and your waterworks extension scheme are both much needed, and my Government is prepared to contribute liberally to both, provided only you can satisfy us that the financial proposals of your Commissioners are sound and not likely to impair the general efficiency of the services at present rendered. But these proposals do not yet meet with the approval of the Sanitary Board. The Commissioners will be asked to re-consider them, and I trust that they will come to a decision which will secure the carrying through of the schemes at an early date.

I am sorry to hear such bad accounts of the health of Tangail. It was a great disappointment to me to have to abandon my visit to that subdivision for this year: I wanted to see something of local conditions for myself. I will ask the Malaria Committee to extend their enquiries to Tangail. Meanwhile the local officers have done something to help: the Civil Surgeon has deputed special Assistant Surgeons to work there, and active steps have been taken to secure that quinine shall be available.

MEMBERS OF THE ANJUMAN,

You are disappointed at the slow progress of education among the Muhammadans. Your disappointment arises from your zeal. I, too, am sorry, but I am not so surprised as you are—for while I realise your need—as Governor, I see as you cannot see—the difficulties which cause delay. The goal is still far off, but we are getting nearer to it. The Director of Public Instruction has been given an assistant whose duty is to further Muhammadan education. A Muhammadan Inspector has been posted in this Division with his head-quarters at Mymensingh. A Special Committee met lately to assist Government in considering your present needs. These are but preliminary steps, still you may feel sure Government has not forgotten you, and though progress is not as rapid as you would wish—or as I would wish—progress is being made, and there will be no going back.

The cultivators of this district are largely Muhammadans, so it is natural that you should draw my attention to the transferability of occupancy rights. This question has already received attention from Government, and what I need say now is that proposals for dealing with this question will very soon be made public.

And now, gentlemen, my address—which has, I fear, been too lengthy—is over. I look forward to meeting many of you this afternoon—when we are to be the guests of the Raja Bahadur. Tomorrow morning I hope to see some of you when I visit the site and examine the plans of the new hospital, the scheme for which I inaugurated two years ago. I am glad to hear that the greater part of the money required has been secured, for I am confident that the hospital will prove of the greatest value both to the town and the district.

I thank you for the patience with which you have heard me, and I thank you once more for the cordial welcome you have given me.

His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of unveiling the tablet to the memory of late Babu Chandra Kanta Ghose, Chairman, Mymensingh Municipality, on 9th September 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

Before we leave this hall your Commissioner, Mr. French, has asked me to unveil a tablet which you have erected to a public-spirited man of this town who was a pioneer in the work of extending Local Self-Government. Babu Chandra Kanta Ghose was born in the year 1841 in the district of Dacca, but he spent his life in Mymensingh and died here in 1891. He occupied a high position and attained to distinction by his ability as a lawyer and by his reputation for honesty and conscientiousness. His connection with this Municipality began so far back as 1878. He served as a member of the old Town Committee until 1884 when he was elected Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Committee; and on the introduction of the elective system in 1886 he was elected the first non-official Chairman, a position which he held until the day of his death.

The town of Mymensingh owes much to him. I am told that it was largely owing to his initiative that the scheme for waterworks which the efforts of the late Maharaja made possible, was carried to a successful conclusion. Unfortunately he was removed by death only a few weeks before the foundation-stone was laid.

The career of Babu Chandra Kanta Ghose is one of which his fellow-citizens may well be proud and one which they would do well to emulate. It gives me great pleasure to be associated with the memorial which I now unveil.

***His Excellency's Address on the occasion of the departure of
the King's Own Regiment, Darjeeling, on 29th October 1914.***

COLONEL MARTIN, OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE KING'S OWN,

I am proud—I am sure we are all proud—to be here to bid you God-speed. You have been our friends, and we shall miss you; we are sorry—some of us very sorry—that you are going away, but all the same we cannot but be glad also for we know where you hope to be soon. Wherever you go, whatever you are called on to do, you will do your duty. We know what the King's Own did in South Africa—at Ladysmith—and so we know what the King's Own will do in Europe if you only get the chance. You will not have an easy time: the foes whom you will meet know their business and will take a lot of beating; there will be hard fighting, but you mean to show us who can fight best. Many good men have already fallen, many good men have suffered; many more will fall, many more will suffer—but they will suffer bravely, and you among them. We have no doubt what the end will be; when it comes we shall rejoice with those of you who come home victorious—and those of you who do not come home we shall all of us honour; for they will have given their lives for their country and for their King.

Officers and men of the King's Own, on behalf of all here I wish you good-bye and good luck.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
DARJEELING;
The 31st October 1914.

MY DEAR FRENCH,

The people of Tangail have very kindly forwarded to my Private Secretary copies of the addresses which they hoped to present to me when I visited their town, as I had arranged to do. I would like through you to thank them for their kindness.

I had looked forward to the visit and I was very disappointed when I had to abandon it. You have, I know, already told the people why I had to do this; will you tell them now that I hope still to visit Tangail before my term of office ends?

2. The visit of a Governor is looked to as an occasion when the Government takes the people into its confidence about local affairs. I do not wish the people of Tangail to be deprived of any advantage that might have come from my visiting them; so I will be grateful to you if you will let them know how I should have replied to their addresses.

3. In the first place, I am glad to receive from the people of Tangail their expression of loyalty to the Throne and devotion to the person of our beloved King-Emperor.

4. The Municipality and the Anjuman-i-Islamia ask that steps be taken to expedite the improvement of railway communication between Tangail and the district head-quarters. I fully recognise the urgent need of railway extensions throughout the district of Mymensingh, and the matter has for some time been and still is receiving the attention both of my Government and of the Government of India. The Railway Board have recently told me that they have accepted in principle the desirability of constructing a metre-gauge line from Tangail to Mymensingh, but that the precise route is to be settled hereafter. Further, if it can be shown that branches joining this Tangail-Mymensingh line, firstly, with the Singhjani-Jagannathgauj Branch, and secondly, with a point on the Jamuna opposite Sirajganj would be financially attractive, means will probably be found for securing their construction. It must, however, be a considerable time before any decision can be come to in regard to these further extensions as they have not yet been surveyed.

5. The Municipal Commissioners request—

- (1) that assistance be given to provide a good supply of drinking water;
- (2) that Tangail be selected as the head-quarters of the proposed new district, failing which Gopalpur or Madhupur be selected; and
- (3) that a middle English girls' school be established with a suitable female staff for the furtherance of female education in the subdivision.

I have the fullest sympathy with any proposal for the provision of good drinking water, and if the Commissioners will submit through you a well-considered scheme, it shall receive the attention of my Government.

The exact position of head-quarters of the new district within which Tangail will be included cannot be decided upon at present: much must depend upon the decision of the Railway Board as to the alignment of the proposed railway. The views expressed in the address, however, will be kept in mind when the question is considered.

6. I would advise the people to approach the Educational Authorities who are cognisant of local needs, regarding the proposed school.

7. The addresses from the Local Board and the Anjuman-i-Islamia deal with the question of combating malaria and other sanitary measures. I have heard of the evil reputation of Tangail in this matter, and I had hoped to see something of the local conditions for myself. The causes of contamination of drinking water and the means of removing them will be investigated by the Malaria Committee.

8. The Local Board suggests the deepening of some of the important water-channels, especially the Tangail, Gaziabari and Attia Khals, as an improvement to the means of local communications. This question has already been considered by Government. The rough estimate for excavating the Gaziabari Khal amounted to a very large sum, and Government was assured by those who understand such matters that the improvement so caused could be only temporary, owing to the uncertain course of the Jamuna and the silting which goes on in it. The scheme was, therefore, abandoned, and I am afraid I can hold out no hope of assistance. It would not be wise to spend large sums on improvements of so temporary and uncertain character.

9. The Anjuman-i-Islamia ask for free primary education for the poor Muhammadans of the subdivision. The desirability of bringing primary education within the reach of everyone is admitted; but this goal cannot be attained all at once; unfortunately it is impossible from a financial point of view to provide free primary education for all, and I do not think it would be right to attempt to provide it for the benefit of one community only. The Imperial Government have given a large grant for the extension of primary education in Bengal, and Tangail, I feel sure, will get its share of the grant.

10. Finally I would request you to convey to the people of Tangail my sincere thanks for their good wishes to me.

Yours ever sincerely,

(Sd.) CARMICHAEL.

F. C. FRENCH, ESQ., I.C.S.,

Commissioner, Dacca Division.

Presentation of Kaiser-i-Hind Medal to Mother Mary Gonzaga of the Loreto Order, on 6th November 1914.

REVEREND MOTHER MARY GONZAGA,

I have come here to-day in order to decorate you with the *Kaiser-i-Hind* Medal of the First Class which was recently bestowed on you by His Gracious Majesty our King-Emperor.

The *Kaiser-i-Hind* Medal was instituted by Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria, Empress of India, as a reward for important and useful services rendered in India, in the advancement of public interests. I do not believe that any one has done more to deserve that reward than you have done. For sixty years you have worked as devotedly as any Irish woman could work—and no women have ever worked harder or more single-mindedly in a good cause than Irish women have worked. As Provincial of the Loreto Nuns in India, you have, by your energy and by your unceasing labour during 27 years, developed and brought to their present high standard of perfection those schools through which your Order has conferred an inestimable boon on so many women in Bengal and the Upper Provinces.

My friend Mr. Pat Lovatt has told us there are few homes in Northern India in which the Loreto influence is not felt. If that is so—I believe it is so—for where could one find a more capital authority than Mr. Lovatt—it is well for Northern India. The Loreto Nuns are loved in many parts of the world. I have seen them in Australia; and I know how they are loved there. I have often heard that they are no less loved here.

I am proud that it has fallen to my lot to hand over to you the King-Emperor's Medal.

Mr. Lovatt advised me to read what Sir Archdale Earle said on a somewhat analogous occasion to this, and to try to go one better. I only read Mr. Lovatt's advice a few hours ago, and I have not had time to look up Sir Archdale's words; I have no doubt they are eloquent—far more eloquent than any words of mine could be. But I did read part of "Palm Leaves," and I feel that I cannot finish what I have to say to you better than by joining in the prayer of the pupils of Loreto at Darjeeling that "you may be long spared to guide the destinies of Loreto in India; and may each new work add a gem to the crown which you will wear throughout eternity."

We are most of us more than four years old, and we might, perhaps, choose other language in which to express our wish, but I feel sure that in substance we all most heartily endorse what Miss Mary Starksfield said to you:

"I wish you health,
I wish you wealth,
I wish you gold in store.
I wish you Heaven
When you die,
What can I wish you more!"

***His Excellency's reply to the Joint Address presented at Midnapore,
on 10th November 1914.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am glad to be among you again. Lady Carmichael and I cordially appreciate the kind reception you have given us.

I thank you for your assurance of devotion and whole-hearted loyalty to the British Crown. Such expressions are particularly welcome just now. The people—in Bengal and in every part of India—are showing their loyalty in no uncertain manner. We are all at one in our feelings for the Empire; we know what it has done for us and we are ready and willing to give up all we possess, if need be, in our determination to uphold it. There may be long months of war before us—there must be much suffering, such as one trembles to think of. Our sailors and our soldiers—Indian and British alike—will do their duty: they are fighting, and will fight to the end without malice, without hatred, even to their foes, but courageously and honourably in support of the right, as they see the right. As to the ultimate result we have no doubt, but, though far from the seat of war—we wish, each of us, to do what we can; and we count it a privilege when we can find an opportunity to do something however little, to relieve the suffering or to help our common cause. There is one way—a very real way—in which all of us can help; and I would like to impress this on you to-day. We who are educated, who can sift the true from the false, should do our best to spread a knowledge of the true facts of the war among our less fortunate brethren and to stop the false rumours which so constantly alarm the ignorant.

I know that what you want most to hear me speak about is the proposed partition of your district. I tell you frankly I am convinced that your district ought to be divided. The majority of you—perhaps all of you—disagree with me. You have explained to me why you think as you do; it is my duty to try to explain to you why I think as I do. I have as you know, only been in India for three years, and of that time I spent five months in Madras. I, therefore, cannot claim to have much personal knowledge of any Indian question. I can only judge of things from what I am told or what I have read. Clearly this is a drawback; for, however much one tries to understand what one is told, or to balance evidence fairly, nothing ever quite makes up for lack of personal experience, for without that there is always a risk of one's being entirely ignorant of some important point. Again, and this, too, is a drawback, my time as Governor here is short: anything I do must be done within the next two and-a-half years. Obviously there is a risk of my acting too hurriedly, even if it be from a desire to do good. Those two drawbacks are bound up with the system of which I form part. Neither you nor I can get rid of them; we can only try to guard against them. You did not run these risks before I came to Bengal, when you had a Lieutenant-Governor. A Lieutenant-Governor was always a man of great personal experience, and although his term of office might be no

longer than mine, he expected to be succeeded by a man with great personal experience of the same kind as his own, and who would probably look on problems in much the same way as he himself did. With Governors it cannot be so. It will be seldom that any two Governors will have had just the same sort of experience. They will probably always look at things from more varying standpoints than two Lieutenant-Governors ever would. I do not discuss whether this is a good thing or a bad thing. I only want you to remember that when I approach any Indian problem I must, if I am to deal with it fairly, listen to all that people with personal experience tell me, but I must also be guided to some extent by my own experience gained elsewhere; and I may be too apt to think that the same motives actuate Indians which actuate men—say, in Scotland or in Australia. I feel this, I constantly try to remember it, but it is only fair to you that I should admit it; and I hope that you will give me credit for having meant well if you think that I overrate your desire to manage your own affairs or for any other of those things to which men of my race attach importance, but about which I am sometimes told Indians do not care much.

I shall first refer to what I may call the official argument in favour of division—that connected with efficiency of administration. You know and understand that argument as well as I do, or perhaps better. You have heard it often, and it has not convinced you. Mr. Agasti when he came to me with the deputation last week explained your views about this very clearly. I thoroughly agree with much that he and other gentlemen said about the personality of individual officers. No one feels that more than I do. As a Governor with no previous knowledge of Bengal I am struck by the very different attitude taken up by the different officers whom I meet. There are differences of attitude among the Indian quite as much as among English officers when they speak of their work of the country or of the people. I am glad to find how satisfied the people of Midnapore have been with the officers who have been here. Evidently the Appointment Department have been singularly successful in selecting men for this district. But all the same I have a feeling that perhaps you don't expect quite enough, not quite as much as Government thinks you ought to expect, of your officers; and I will tell you why I have this feeling. You have quoted to me individual Collectors who did not find themselves at all overwhelmed by their work here—who had plenty of leisure time after discharging their duties to the satisfaction of themselves and of the people. They were perhaps exceptionally able men; I did not know them so I cannot say. But I do know three individual officers who have been in Midnapore. All of whom I believe did their best to keep in touch with the people of the district, and to do their duty in every way—I refer to Mr. Gourlay, my own Private Secretary, Mr. John Kerr, the present Revenue Secretary, and Mr. Cumming, the present Chief Secretary. I have spoken to these three men about Midnapore, and each of them has told me that he found it quite impossible when he was acting here—owing to the size of the district—to do his duty as he thinks he ought to have done it. I feel sure that all three of them did what work they

did well; but they say that they had to leave many things undone which they felt ought to have been done, and which they would have done, if it had been physically possible. When I find these three men, in whom I have confidence, and with whose judgment I agree as to what the duties of a District Officer are, telling me this, I cannot help believing that your district, even though it may not be too large for some exceptional men to do justice to, must be too large for the average District Officer. Much that Mr. Agasti said made me realise more clearly what I have felt for some time, that Midnapore and Mymensingh are probably not the only districts in Bengal which are too large; for he pointed to other districts where the work devolving on the Collector is even greater than it is here.

Of course I know that much of the work for which a Collector is responsible can be done well by his subordinates, but there is a great deal which cannot. One of the most important functions of a District Officer's work ought to be the supervision of the criminal work of his subordinate Magistrates. I do not mean that he should interfere with the judicial discretion of his subordinates. I hope no District Officer would desire to do this. But he ought to see that the judicial machine works smoothly and expeditiously; that there is no unnecessary delay in the examination of witnesses or in the detention of accused under trial; in short that every man, even the poorest, has a fair chance when he comes into court. I do not see how a District Magistrate can do his duty properly in this respect if he has to supervise too large a staff of officers. It was to meet this need, as much as anything else that Additional Magistrates were appointed in some heavy districts.

Again every District Officer receives hundreds of letters of varying importance. The happiness and comfort of many in the district is often involved in these letters: take for instance letters dealing with municipalities, with taxation, sanitation, education, water-supply, about police administration or about chankidari administration; all these concern the people most intimately and to my mind many of these letters should receive the close personal attention of the District Officer; when I find your Collector getting 33,000 letters a year and sending 28,000 in reply, I cannot help thinking that even if he gives over the most liberal proportion of these to be dealt with by subordinates, he must still find it very difficult to attend himself to those which he would rightly wish to attend to, and give the time to personal touring and inspection which it seems to me his district has a right to expect from him. I often hear of complaints as to irregularities committed by peons serving processes. This may seem to some of you a trifling matter; but I am convinced that the poorer people in this country have a very real grievance here. I do not speak from personal knowledge, but I am assured by some of my best officers that there is perhaps no way in which the poorer inhabitants are so much harassed as they are in the serving of processes. I have heard it said that dishonest peons will sit at head-quarters and write up false reports saying that they have been to the village and served the notice on the proper person; or, they will go to the village, and serve or not serve the process according as one or other side pays them. Process registers are kept in the courts and every peon keeps

a diary. A Collector can do a world of good by making periodical inspections of these registers and diaries, by testing one against the other, by calling up the peons and questioning them, and finally by enquiring into the real facts when he goes on tour. Unless this is done, poor men may find their lands and household goods sold up without warning, their cases fail in court, or themselves fined and perhaps imprisoned for disobeying a notice which was never delivered to them. In an overlarge district the Collector is quite unable to exercise this very necessary supervision and the poor suffer in consequence. I can hardly be surprised that such irregularities occur when I find that from one Collector's office alone so many as 97,650 processes have issued in a year.

• The proposal to divide your district is far from being a recent one. Over a long series of years—the officials answerable for its administration have by an overwhelming majority urged that the district ought to be divided. Division was recommended as long ago as 1852, more than 60 years ago; it has been constantly pressed on us ever since, and from the purely administrative point of view, I believe that the case for it is unanswerable. This is admitted even by many who oppose the division. These opponents put forward their arguments quite fairly, but they do not, to any great extent, base them on administration.

Nor do they dwell greatly on the inconvenience or even the loss which partition will bring to individuals—to professional men or to large landholders; they know that Government are aware of these things, and they recognise that Government is prepared to do all it can to keep such loss or inconvenience within the narrowest possible limits. For my part I am glad to find individuals prepared to make sacrifices without complaint if it can be shown that these are needed in the public interest.

There is one thing which I would like to say here. It was only yesterday that I heard that some people believe that Government intends to divide the Civil Court. There is no such intention in the mind of Government. It is impossible to say what public convenience may ultimately demand, but at any rate just now no one who practises at the civil bar need fear any interference in this matter.

I am glad to find that you do not lay stress on the argument that Government wish to create new posts for officers. You give us credit for being actuated by better motives and I thank you for that.

• • What you do lay stress on are the arguments based on finance. You are right to take so practical a view. There is the question of the extra cost involved in the Government's proposals. The initial cost will, I believe, be very much what you yourselves estimate. Government will endeavour to keep the cost down as far as possible and I believe that by spreading building over a series of years a considerable saving may be effected. One reason in favour of making Kharagpur the headquarters of the new district is intimately connected with this. What the deputation said last week shows that you yourselves understand this. The total recurring cost after allowing for a new subdivision at Ihargram, the necessity for which is accepted by those who memorialised

me, will, I believe, be something between sixty and seventy thousand rupees per annum. I do not look on this as an excessive price to pay for what I expect to be a far-reaching administrative reform.

• Mr. Agasti dwelt on one very important aspect of the case; he said in effect what is the use of bringing the Collector into closer touch with the people and making him better acquainted with their wants unless at the same time you give him more money with which to meet these wants? I do not think I misrepresent Mr. Agasti's argument, which is to my mind a very practical one—and he hinted that to do this might even lead to discontent. Perhaps it would. In any other country I should say I should not mind if it does—even in India. I shall say I am prepared to risk it: for I think it most important that Government should clearly realise what the real needs of the people are. Of course the whole must always be equal to the sum of its parts—nothing can get round that—and this argument can always be used in defence of a centralised system of spending any public funds available for improvements; but it is equally a fact that the smaller the area to which a separate fund is allotted, the greater is the likelihood that each individual tax-payer will get some return for his money.

But, gentlemen, the consideration which has weighed with me in making up my mind more than any other is this—I do not see how, unless you change the whole system of Indian administration—which no one proposes to do, and to attempt which would only be a waste of many precious years—I do not see how you can ever get a really effective system of local self-government introduced into this country unless you do divide up the larger districts. A real system of local self-government is, I think, the greatest present need of Bengal.

I am not alone in thinking this: my colleagues in Government agree with me; and I was delighted to find that the men whom I asked to advise my Government as to District Administration, and who all know India and sympathise with Indians, also agreed with me in this. It is, perhaps, difficult for those who have only been in this country and who are not familiar with Local Government as it exists elsewhere to appreciate what I mean. I often find when talking to Bengalees who have the welfare of their country at heart, that they do not realise what I look forward to: when they do they say they are anxious to secure it. I should like to see, and my Government would like to see, a working committee set up in every Chaukidari Union, composed for the most part of elected members which should deal not only with village police, but also with village roads, sanitation and water-supply, and the members of which should, perhaps, try the petty cases of the village, both civil and criminal. I have not time to go into details. But I feel convinced that I can do nothing better for Bengal than help her people, as far as I can, to develop for themselves a genuine system of local self-government. I am told that money is scarce just now, and is likely to continue scarce, and that, therefore, we ought to delay any reform which costs money. Of course if money to do something is needed and cannot be found, then that thing cannot be done; I admit I do not know what money will be available in the immediate future, but what I feel is that if the money for this reform can by any means

be found, it ought to be found, and the reform ought to be started on as soon as possible.

I should have liked to have spoken to you as regards the details of the scheme, but I have not time to do more than to tell you that after examining the case with great care we still think that Kharagpur will be the best capital for a new district. Personally I was struck with the arguments used in favour of Contai, but specially as there is a prospect of Contai being very soon brought into excellent railway connection with Kharagpur, I have been convinced that Kharagpur will suit a larger number of people than Contai would.

With regard to the subdivisions I know that you are familiar with what has been proposed. I need only say that we are far from being hide bound in our adherence to the scheme put forward in July 1913, but are anxious, as far as possible, in fixing the details of boundaries to meet local wishes.

I may perhaps mention one small matter connected with this. We have practically decided that the thana of Panskura should remain in the Tamruk Subdivision.

When I was here before, you showed me your college. Since then Mr. Hornell, the Director of Public Instruction, has been to Midnapore and has gone into the needs of the institution, and the difficulties in financial management. The matter is still being considered by the Education Department, and their proposals have not yet come to me, but I have seen Mr. Hornell's notes, and I hope that the long standing question of the financial arrangement between the municipality and the college may soon be settled, and that with the removal of this obstacle a brighter day may dawn. When the school and college were transferred to the municipality in 1887, it was not done with the object of saving money to Government, or of throwing a larger burden on the municipality than was otherwise justifiable. It was never intended that the management of the college by the municipality should lead to the neglect of other liabilities. If there has been any cause for the existence of such an idea, I trust Government will at once remove it. Mr. Hornell has examined your building scheme, and tells me it has his entire approval and that he desires to help you to carry it out as soon as possible. He may not,—through want of funds,—be able to help you to do all you want at once, but I feel pretty sure that the scheme will be carried out by degrees as funds become available. Any how I have asked him to have the whole matter placed before me at an early date and you may rely on my sympathy when he does so.

You refer also to your water-supply. No scheme has yet been brought before Government and things seem to be at a dead lock. The Sanitary Engineer has suggested two alternative schemes; by one water would be pumped from a line of wells in the bed of the Cossye, and by the other direct from the river. There is little difference in the initial cost of the two schemes, but the recurring cost of the former is estimated at Rs. 8,000, while that of the latter is estimated at Rs. 12,000. There may be advantages in the more costly scheme of which I am not aware, and these may lead you to adopt it; but if there are not, I expect you will wish to go in for the other. The Sanitary Engineer

will be able to advise; before giving his final opinion, however, he has asked that an experiment should be made with one well. The cost of the experiment is estimated at Rs. 5,000, and the Commissioners are not at present able to meet this. I will give you the cost of the experimental well—so that there may be no further delay in deciding which scheme is the better. But this will by no means solve your difficulty. The cheaper scheme is expected to cost over three lakhs and estimates are often found to be too low. So far as I know the question of raising this sum has not yet been tackled. When I was here before, I suggested to you to appoint a Committee of the most energetic amongst you to go thoroughly into the finances. I do not know whether you were able to do this; if not, I still think you should. There are three sources from which you may hope to raise funds—donations from public-spirited men in your town and district; loans; and Government grants. If Government approve a scheme it is usually willing to give a grant amounting to one-third of the cost, and to lend such a sum as in its opinion the municipality can safely borrow. Sometimes Government under very special circumstances gives a larger grant. In the case of Midnapore I think there may be special circumstances, though how far they would justify an extraordinary grant, it is impossible for me to say, until the whole question has been thoroughly gone into. As I said when I was here before when you are ready with practical proposals I am ready to do what I can to help you.

Gentlemen, again I thank you on behalf of Lady Carmichael and myself for your kindness in receiving us.

*His Excellency's reply to the Addresses presented at Chinsura,
on 12th November 1914.*

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for the addresses which you have presented to me, and I thank you also for the hearty reception you have given to Lady Carmichael and myself. This is not the first time we have been inside the Hooghly district, for we have several times crossed over to this side of the river when we were staying at that beautiful residence at Barrackpore which His Excellency the Viceroy so kindly allows to use as a retreat from the strenuous duties of Calcutta.

I thank you for the assurance of your deep and sincere loyalty and devotion to the King-Emperor which you express in all the addresses I shall gladly convey these assurances to His Excellency the Viceroy.

The war is indeed a terrible calamity for the whole civilised world: its effects will be felt for many years to come. We know that our King-Emperor and his advisers did all that was humanly possible to prevent the conflict, and to circumscribe at least its area and the number of nations directly affected. Their efforts only failed when engagements which, we as an Empire had pledged ourselves to see respected, were broken. Then we all realized that war was inevitable, and that wonderful tightening of the bonds of our Empire began. First, in England disputes were forgotten: then the Colonies and Dominions Overseas pressed forward with their ready help—and not least among these India. We are proud that British and Indian soldiers are fighting side by side for the Empire of which each and all of us are members. We have been proud to read how magnificently the Indian troops have acquitted themselves.

There is much that we ourselves can do. Some of us can give of our means to send comforts to the brave men who are fighting, and to help those in India who have been thrown into distress on account of the war. And, on this I should like to lay special stress—we can help to spread a true knowledge of the facts as to the outbreak of the war, and concerning its conduct among the less educated who are alarmed at every ill-founded rumour which spreads through the bazars. This is a form of help which at the present time would be genuinely appreciated, and it is a form of help within the power of every educated man to give.

Your Municipal Commissioners refer with justifiable pride to the historical associations of Hooghly. It was, I believe, in 1575, in the reign of Akbar, that the Portuguese first settled in Hooghly—though they had explored Bengal nearly 60 years before then—and it was in 1632, in the time of Shajehan, that their settlement was destroyed, together with that first Christian Church in Bengal to which you refer. In 1650, Captain Brookhaven of the *Lyonesse* was sent by the East India Company to establish a factory at Hooghly where he arrived in January 1651. In 1675, it was decided that Hooghly should be the head factory in Bengal, and William Hedges—whose diary probably many of you

know well—and who seems to, have spent a good deal of his time quarrelling with Job Charnock—was appointed first Governor in 1682. Then came the decision to retire from Hooghly, and on the 24th August 1690, the site which afterwards became Calcutta, was chosen, and Hooghly ceased to be the head-quarters of the Company. I hope, while I am here, to see something of the historical remains of the old settlements; guided by the most interesting Monograph on the History of Hooghly District written by your late Civil Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Crawford.

I am glad, I am to open your new waterworks. Mr. Prentice has told me of the straggle which the Commissioners had to carry their scheme to completion; I gather that at times the discussions on the subject between the Commissioners and the officers of Government were somewhat warmly worded, but I admire the dogged persistence with which you all stuck to your point until now you have the satisfaction of knowing that your goal has been reached. In order that no thought of unpaid bills may mar our proceedings on Saturday, I gladly assent to your request that Government should make good the deficit in the waterworks fund. I have given orders that you should have a grant of 50,000 rupees, but have added the condition that the bills of all contractors, as settled by the Sanitary Engineer, should be paid punctually and in full; and that you should assess the water-rate at the maximum allowable under the law from next financial year, for this as I gather is absolutely necessary if you are to meet the cost of maintenance.

You speak of another project; as great if not greater than the one you have just completed—the drainage of the town: I hope that after the experience gained in carrying out your waterworks you will now tackle this with as stout a heart. Your best course will, I think, be to draw up a scheme for gradually constructing the main drainage channels of each of the three independent sections. The Sanitary Engineer is a very busy officer: and we cannot ask him to undertake the detailed examination of a proposal for the drainage of the large and thickly populated area comprised within Sahaganj, Bally, Hooghly and Chinsura—until Government is satisfied about the means of financing it, and unless there is a prospect of the scheme being carried out fairly soon.

At the same time I am sure you do not mean to let the grass grow under your feet. I would suggest, therefore, that you should confer with the Sanitary Engineer and ask his advice. Perhaps he may be able to tell you how, with the means at your disposal, you can provide the main drainage arteries in each of the three sections—one after the other. If you can satisfy Government that there is a fair chance of your being able to do this, Government may be willing to consider them as separate projects and thus help you to carry the whole scheme slowly to completion.

MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD—

In your address you ask that District Boards may be given powers similar to those enjoyed by the Municipalities for dealing with tanks,

jungle lands and other areas which admit of sanitary improvement. This proposal is not a new one; it has been considered from time to time; but it must be remembered that legislation of this kind interferes materially with private rights on property and such legislation cannot be undertaken lightly. Moreover, the sanitary needs of a crowded area, such as a municipality usually is, justify more stringent measures of interference than are, perhaps, expedient in less populated areas. But the supply of good drinking water in rural areas is of the utmost importance, and I believe that in most parts of Bengal tanks give the best form of water-supply. I know, too, that many owners of tanks would welcome assistance in keeping their tanks free from abuse and pollution.

I should, therefore, view with favour proposals to give District Boards powers to enter into agreement with owners to maintain tanks on condition that the tanks are reserved for drinking purposes only and are thrown open to the public; or to call upon owners to fill up insanitary tanks or to re-excavate insanitary tanks and recover the cost from the owner.

These points have been noted, and when the amendment of the present Local Self-Government Act comes before the Legislative Council, they shall be considered.

You draw my attention to the question of surveying the dead and dying rivers of the district, especially the Saraswati and the Kunti, and to the need for the more vigorous flushing of certain other rivers by means of the Eden Canal.

So far as I am aware no survey of these dead rivers has ever been made. The Irrigation Engineers are not sanguine of the utility of such a survey, but Mr. Prentice shares your anxiety that the question should be gone into, and I will ask the Irrigation Department to consider it.

My friend, Mr. Sarada Charan Mitra, brought to my notice the desirability of flushing these rivers some time ago, and as a result of his representation enquiries were made which resulted in the construction of a new sluice to feed the Eden Canal. I hope when this is completed some measure of relief will be ensured. Meanwhile our Engineers are working out the Damodar Canal Project which would, I am told, meet the difficulty more adequately.

You refer also to the devastating flood of 1913 and to the necessity for considering how far the area to the west of the Damodar can be protected.

The flood of 1913 was indeed a terrible experience for the people in the west of the Hooghly district: the one bright spot was the way in which the people of the district organised relief for the sufferers. They did many acts of devotion and self-sacrifice, and I shall never forget how splendidly they helped their fellowmen.

The question of dealing with floods in this corner of Bengal has occupied the attention of the Government for a century or more. It is a question of vast extent for the floods do not confine their effect within the boundaries of any one district. It practically amounts to this—how can we help nature to carry the waters of the hill area in the east of the Chota Nagpur Plateau, and the west of Bengal to the

sea without doing damage to property? It is not possible to prevent floods—nor is it desirable, provided there is good drainage—but it is possible with modern Engineering science to minimise the destruction caused by floods. This great volume of water comes down from four main channels, the Damodar, Darkeswar, Silye and Cossye—all these channels open into the same reservoir to the north of the Buxi embankment. The question therefore is a large one, and any remedial measures must necessarily be on a big scale. Those who have considered the question have, I think, been inclined to be depressed by its vastness. This is merely to admit defeat before the battle has begun. The fight is one against the forces of nature, but unless we start out with the idea that we are going to win at all costs, we shall certainly be defeated. After conversation with many residents both of this district and of Burdwan, I have no doubt in my own mind that matters are gradually getting worse—and that the longer we delay, the more expensive the remedy will become.

There are two main lines of possible action—first, to give the waters easier access to the sea, second, to regulate the amount of water at the source of the floods.

Mr. Addams-Williams has examined these questions very thoroughly and has submitted an admirable report on them. He himself firmly believes in the possibility of minimising the disastrous effects: he thinks we might improve the access to the sea from the Ghatal area by constructing a new channel: and from the Buxi area by improving the channels of the Hoorhoora, Buxi and Gaighatta and by removing obstructions at the heads of these khuds. He believes, too, that we could regulate the flow of the water down the Damodar channel by constructing large reservoirs in the hilly country at its source.

All these matters are now being looked into by the Engineers, and I trust that the future holds a bright prospect for measures of permanent relief.

MEMBERS OF THE HOOGHLY DISTRICT NATIONAL MUHAMMADAN ASSOCIATION—

I am specially gratified to hear what you say regarding the harmonious relations which exist between the Hindus and Muhammadans of this district. Nawabzada Saiyid Ashraf-ud-din Ahmad, Khan Bahadur, Mutwali of Imambara, has told me before now, of the needs of the Hooghly Madrassa and College.

Mr. Hornell and Mr. Taylor have both visited the College and Madrassa—and they are at present carefully considering what can be done to improve matters. I gather from their notes, which I have seen, that the whole matter is very complicated and that the improvements which some think necessary will involve a very large expenditure. I cannot express any opinion until Mr. Hornell submits his final proposals to the Government, but I can promise you that when he does so I will go thoroughly into the matter with my colleague, the Hon'ble Nawab Shamsul Huda, and we will see what can be done to meet your wishes.

Gentlemen, I again thank you for your cordial reception of my wife and myself. We hope that during the course of this visit we shall have an opportunity of becoming personally acquainted with many

His Excellency's Speech when opening the King Edward Memorial at Hooghly, on 13th November 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

It has given me great pleasure to be associated with this ceremony to-day.

There are memorials to our late King Edward VII in many towns in India, but I am sure that there are none which bear greater testimony to loyalty and devotion than this one in the ancient town of Hooghly which has been so long associated with British Rule in this country.

King Edward—following the example of his mother, the Great Queen-Empress Victoria—strove throughout his reign for peace and to knit more closely the tie that bound the mother country to his Indian Empire. His son—our present Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor—has ever strive as earnestly for the same objects. All his subjects recognise that. It was only when the nation's honour was assailed and solemn pledges were violated that Great Britain stood forward to champion the weak against the strong who had broken those pledges. All the people of our Empire realised that peace could only now be obtained at the price of a terrible war—but all the peoples of our Empire have shown that they are ready to pay the price. That they are so ready has been due in no small measure to the influence of a Great King who loved his people. I am glad to think that the people of this town will have the memorial constantly before them to remind them of that Great King and of the lessons which he taught.

His Excellency's Speech when Opening the Hooghly-Chinsura Waterworks, on 14th November 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

I congratulate you and the ratepayers and people whom you represent on the completion of your waterworks.

There are three services which the citizens of all modern towns in Western lands demand, but which one does not always find here; they are efficient conservancy, proper drainage and an adequate supply of pure drinking water, yet surely these are as much needed—if more so—here in the East where such diseases as cholera and malarial fever—are so prevalent. I am glad to see how the citizens of the towns in Bengal, not yet provided with these necessities of civic life, are bestirring themselves to obtain them. Prosaic though it may sound, there is no way in which a patriotic citizen can serve his fellow-townsmen better than by pressing such schemes on the attention of the Commissioners and on the attention of Government; and wherever the citizens bestir themselves about this, they will not, I trust, find Government lacking in sympathy and help.

I am told that the project, which I have just inaugurated for supplying pure drinking water to the people of Hooghly-Chinsura, was first mooted while my friend Sir William Duke was your District Officer. We are glad that Sir William is with us to-day to see the work completed. You all know that he is to leave us next week: he has been appointed a Member of the Secretary of State's Council and it is with mixed feelings that we say farewell to him. We are glad that he has been chosen by His Majesty the King-Emperor to fill a position of so great responsibility and fraught with such large possibilities for the good of India: but we are very sorry indeed to lose a sympathetic friend and an administrator with such an intimate knowledge of the needs and aspirations of the people.

Sir William knows Hooghly better than most officers do. He was posted to Hooghly when he arrived in India in the winter of 1884: he was for some time the Subdivisional Officer of Serampore, and he subsequently served at head-quarters first as a Joint-Magistrate and afterwards for three years as District Magistrate.

The scheme of the waterworks which I have just opened, is the same in its essentials as was the scheme mooted by Sir William in the early nineties.

A supply of pure water is one of the greatest needs of all citizens: it is often a costly matter—in this case it has been much more costly than you at first anticipated it would be. But it is well worth the cost when we take into consideration the benefits that it brings, the greater comfort to the people and the immunity from disease and consequent decrease in mortality. I know you have had great financial difficulties to contend with. I heard this morning from your Chairman, Rai Mohendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, of your efforts to meet these difficulties, and

I am glad that I was able to come to your help when, as I gather, you were almost in despair—by giving you a further grant of Rs. 50,000 from Provincial Revenues. As I said when replying to the address which you were kind enough to present to me on the day of my arrival at Chinsura, I wish you to pay all the contractors' bills as settled by the Sanitary Engineer as punctually as possible: and at the same time I want to lay stress on the necessity for your making proper provision to maintain the works. The water-rate at present is, I hear, fixed at a rate below the maximum which does not bring in sufficient income to meet the costs of maintenance. I trust you, therefore, to see that it is raised to the maximum allowed by law.

I am sure you realise that Government has dealt sympathetically and generously with you; Government now looks to you to help yourselves without any further contribution from provincial funds.

In your address you mentioned some of those to whom our thanks are due, your late Chairman, Babu Bepin Behary Mitra, your present Chairman, my friend Rai Mohendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, whose labours in this cause have been unceasing, and many Municipal Commissioners, past and present. There is also the Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Williams, who has taken particular pains to provide you with works second to none of their size and kind in India. There are the generous donors, Raja Kristo Das Laha and the others, whom the Chairman mentioned. There are the contractors—Messrs. Martin & Co.—like you I am glad to see Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee with us, and I thank him for the beautiful key which his firm have given me—Messrs. James Simpson & Co.—and Mr. K. S. Mitter. Lastly there is a long line of District Officers and Commissioners, reaching from the days of our friend Sir William Duke to those of Mr. Prentice who is developing that most desirable quality of a Government servant in India, the ability to help the people to help themselves.

Gentlemen, I thank you for having asked me to perform this ceremony, and I have great pleasure in declaring the Hooghly-Chinsura Waterworks open.

His Excellency's Speech when opening the Salvation Army Industrial Home for Men, on 16th November 1914.

COMMISSIONER AND MRS. BOOTH TUCKER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is the first occasion on which I have had the opportunity of visiting one of the Salvation Army's institutions in this country; but it is far from being the first occasion I have had of appreciating the great work which this wonderful religious philanthropic organisation is doing throughout the world.

Few figures were better known in England than that of "General" Booth—and when he died two years ago, at the advanced age of 83, the world lost one of its most remarkable personalities. His strong will, his personal magnetism, and above all his intense and absolute belief in his mission, appealed to all with whom he came into personal contact. He had the genius to grasp a great opportunity and from small beginnings in 1865 he built up this great organisation with its widespread religious power and social efficiency.

I see from the latest statistics which your Commissioner has supplied to me—that "the Army" has occupied no less than 58 countries; that its 22,000 officers carry on their work in nearly 10,000 different centres and in 34 different languages—truly a magnificent monument to a great and good man.

I have heard much of the work here in India; not only from Commissioner Booth Tucker himself, but also from my own officers and from the public press.

I was glad to hear of all the Army has done to encourage weaving and the silk industry and of the way in which it has helped the agriculturists by encouraging co-operation and co-operative credit. The work which has aroused my greatest interest, however, is what Commissioner Booth Tucker describes as "Criminocurology." I have been told how sceptically the proposals of the Army to help in the reformation of the Indian criminal were received by many; but this is not the first time that its officers have overcome difficulties which appeared to men experienced in Indian administration to be insurmountable. Sir John Hewett, however, was not sceptical: he believed in the possibility of the scheme and gave the Commissioner an opening, and this the Commissioner has used most successfully for the good of India.

This institution where we are now gathered is connected with a different branch of the Army's work. The object here is to help those most wretched of all men in this country—the men with European blood in their veins who have lost faith in themselves and in God—for whom life holds nothing, or at least seems to hold nothing—until the poor wanderer finds that there is a home where no one asks about his past—where, if he will only show a willingness to do anything he can to help himself, he will find a ready hand held out to help.

I have heard of the house-to-house work done by the officers in Calcutta—work which is a noble example of the great principle of the Army, "The Supreme duty of self-sacrifice for the salvation of others." This institution has been started to help in carrying out that principle; it will be a haven to which those who are willing to work can come, and where they can find work and food and shelter.

I have great pleasure in declaring the institution open and I wish the Salvation Army God-speed in their good work.

His Excellency's Speech when opening the new building of the Oriental Seminary, on 28th November 1914.

MR. BHUPENDRA NATH BASU AND GENTLEMEN—

It gives me great pleasure to be associated with you in a ceremony which—as your Secretary has just said—will be a memorable event in the history of this school. I feel highly flattered by your suggestion as to a name for the day; as long as you feel inclined to act on that suggestion, it would be most ungrateful on my part were I to do anything but express a hope that you will carry out your wishes. ..

Any institution might well be proud of a history such as this school has of successful achievement in education. It has been closely associated with the whole educational development of Calcutta from the time of Lord William Bentinck, who did so much to encourage education in this country, onwards. It was specially referred to in the Despatch of 1854, and to-day it is looked up to as the outstanding example of a secondary school maintained solely by private funds and under private management.

The success of the school is due to the unaided efforts of private individuals. I believe that nearly all the secondary schools of Calcutta were originated by private effort, though few have been able to meet the demands made by higher education to-day as the Oriental Seminary has done. Calcutta owes—Bengal owes—a great debt of gratitude to those private individuals who have given so freely of their means and of their abilities to encourage education. The demands of secondary education have increased greatly in recent years and will increase still further in future: it seems to me that the days—when the demand can be met by individual efforts unaided and unorganised—are fast passing away. There is, I believe, at the present time a great need to place the secondary school system as a whole on a substantial basis and this must, perhaps, entail a complete reorganisation. If so, I hope that our University, our Municipal Corporation, and the Educational authorities will combine with the representatives of the people to make reorganisation a real benefit to the youths of Bengal. Perhaps the presence here of the Governor at the opening of the new building of a private institution may be looked on as a happy augury for such co-operation in the future.

This beautiful inkstand for which I thank Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, of Messrs. Martin & Co., will always remind me of the afternoon I spent with you at the Oriental Seminary, and I thank you most heartily for giving it to me.

.. I congratulate you on having completed this up-to-date school building well worthy of the history of the institution and of its Founder, and I now have the pleasure of inspecting the building.

*His Excellency's Speech at the Bengal Legislative Council,
on 14th December 1914.*

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with custom I must say a few words in opening this new session. The programme of business which Government is putting before you may not be very exciting—you may even think it somewhat modest—but I believe it is an useful one, and that the measures which we shall ask you to pass will do good. At any rate I confidently look to you for help in making them what they ought to be. I doubt whether any of you expect Government to deal at present with many of the things which you would like it to deal with. Much which you all wish to see done must for the moment be left undone. For we know that whether we like it or not there must for some time be financial stress; Government, it is plain, must conserve its balances and must restrict its expenditure to its normal income; we cannot look for large grants—perhaps we cannot look for grants at all from the Government of India—to enable us to undertake new reforms or even to do work which we have already decided must be done as soon as we have money to do it. We must be prepared, too, to meet emergencies due to possible distress. We hope these may not arise; we believe that certain risks are past, but we must be prepared. Trade and commerce have suffered as they have suffered all over the Empire. Some trades have been completely disorganised: the hide trade for example and several smaller industries. Our great industry—our jute industry—has suffered much; it is recovering, and we trust will recover more; some of those connected with it will, we hope, prosper far more than at one time they were inclined to admit was possible; still it cannot be denied that many have suffered. Very little business has been done. The consequent drying up of the river of cash, which ordinarily flows into the country districts at this time of year, and which is counted on by all, must have far-reaching effects, some of which we can hardly yet estimate. It is the duty of Government through its officers to keep a sympathetic watch over the situation, and that I promise you shall be done. The outlook is improving, but we must continue to be careful. Reports show us, too, that the winter rice crop will be none too plentiful. I mention these things not to alarm you—for there is no cause for alarm—but merely to show you that we have not forgotten them.

We are under the shadow of a great war, but even in that shadow there are bright spaces. We are no less confident now than we were last August of what the result will be. We are proud of what has been done by the forces of our King-Emperor and by our allies on land, on the sea, and in the air. But we realise more clearly than we did how victory is to be won and at how great a cost. In that cost every part of the Empire will bear its share—India and Bengal will suffer as Britain must suffer, and as every British dominion must suffer; but in the final triumph which is assuredly coming and in the blessings which will flow from that triumph, India and Bengal will have their share.

The loyalty to Great Britain shown by India, during these last few months, the eagerness of the Indian peoples to fight alongside of Britons against the foes of our Emperor, clearly testify to the conviction of all who think for India that the good of her peoples will best be attained if Indians of their own free will remain closely associated with the people of the British Islands, and with those who, though they have left those islands, continue to be Britons, in forming an United Empire which we believe is, and which, we hope, will long be, the greatest power on earth, for human good.

This conviction is no new thing; it has not sprung up merely since the war began. It existed long before that in the hearts of many Indians, and it was spreading from Indian to Indian; but it has shown itself now as never before and it will never be forgotten. It has made it easier for Indians and Britons to understand each other, and it will make it easier for Britons and Indians to work together. This cannot but be for the lasting good of both.

The people of Bengal have not been wanting. Circumstances are such that they cannot share in the actual fighting, but they have given proof of their willingness to make sacrifices. I admire the way in which the Europeans in Calcutta have come forward. When I cross the Maidan every morning and see the hard work which so many of them are putting in, I admire them, and I cannot help being sorry for them, that they cannot get the chance which they would like of proving what they are worth. But I admire no less the spirit which has been shown by many Bengali youths, and I most sincerely hope that it may yet be possible for them to get the chance of showing of what they too are worth. The proposal for a Bengali Ambulance Corps is by no means dead yet. There have been difficulties in carrying it out, but I hope they will yet be surmounted.

Bengalis, however, have already done more than some of us have given them credit for—to help Government and through Government their country—in a way none the less valuable because it is not obtrusive. Nothing has given me greater satisfaction lately—not even the capture of the *Emden*, and that gave us all great satisfaction—than to learn how well the zamindars and the income-tax-payers of Bengal have been “playing up.” I know how hard they have been hit over jute; I know how bad in many places are the prospects for the winter rice crop, how uncertain the outlook for next year. I was surprised, therefore, to find that more land revenue and more assessed taxes had been paid by the end of last month than were paid at the same date last year. That fact says a great deal for the loyalty of the zamindars and of the income-tax-payers, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their punctuality in discharging what I fear must have been to many of them a difficult duty.

There is one matter to which I must refer. We are all grieved when we read of the two fresh bomb outrages. I do not believe there is any one who really cares for Bengal who was not horror-struck when he heard of them. That crimes of this sort should happen is bad enough at any time; but that they should happen now is peculiarly grievous, when

our whole outlook is what it is owing to the war, when there is so much suffering being borne patiently and bravely in the cause of our King-Emperor. It pains us to find that there are some persons here so dead to the feeling of loyalty which is actuating Indians of all classes in every province, in every Native State, in every part of Bengal, that they can seize this moment to show their implacable hatred of the Government of their country—the Government of which this assembly forms a part—in which their own countrymen take every day an increasing share. Such acts, whatever be the professed motives of those who do them, can only delay progress, can only bring disgrace on the motherland which they profess to love. The miscreants who do them are surely doubly guilty when they do them now; and I feel confident that there is not one among you who will not be with Government if we find ourselves bound to take steps to protect Bengal from those who are bringing her people into disrepute—a disrepute which is most undeserved.

His Excellency's Addresses to the Recipients of Titles at the Darbar, held in Government House, Calcutta, on 18th December 1914.

NAWAB MUHAMMAD ALI NAWAB CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR,

I congratulate you very heartily on the bestowal upon you of the title of "Nawab" as a personal distinction. You belong to an ancient family of the district of Tippera. As a zamindar, you enjoy universal respect on account of your position and high personal character. You have been conspicuous for your loyal co-operation with the local officials of Government and for your active support of objects of public utility. You maintain at your own cost the Comilla Yusuf High English School, founded by your father, one of the largest and best institutions of its kind in the district. You also maintain a zenana hospital and a girls' school. You have expended large sums of money in constructing tanks, in relieving distress among your tenantry and in benefiting your neighbours in many other ways. In recognition of your public services you received the title of "Khan Bahadur" in 1897. The higher title of "Nawab" has now been conferred upon you, and I hope you will live long to enjoy the honour.

THE HON'BLE RAJA DINENDRA NARAIN RAY,

I congratulate you very heartily on having received the title of "Raja" as a personal distinction. You represent a very ancient family, being a direct descendant of the Maharaja Sukhamay. Ray Bahadur. The title of "Kumar" was specially conferred upon you in 1893 in recognition of your loyalty and public services. You have been for many years an elected Commissioner of the Calcutta Corporation, enjoying the confidence of successive Chairmen as well as the respect alike of your colleagues in the Corporation and of the rate-payers. The Corporation has shown its confidence in you by selecting you as its representative in the Bengal Legislative Council. You have taken an interest in numerous institutions of public utility in Calcutta. I sincerely trust that you may long be spared to continue to do good and useful work.

SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULVI ABUL KHAIR ABDUL WAHHAB,

I congratulate you very heartily on the honour that has been conferred upon you in appreciation of your profound learning. You are an eminent scholar in Muhammadan Logic and Philosophy and have rendered good service in the cause of Muhammadan education for over 25 years.

MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT LAKSHMAN SHASTRI,

I congratulate you very heartily on the honour that has been bestowed upon you. You enjoy a wide reputation for your knowledge of Sanskrit and have edited several important works in that language. You are one of the foremost authorities on Hindu Philosophy. In the Central Hindu College at Benares, and in the Sanskrit College here in Calcutta, classical learning has found in you one of its ablest exponents.

DIWAN BAHADUR, SHIFA-UL-MULK, AND RAI BAHADURS,

I have great pleasure in presenting to you the *sanads* of your titles. I congratulate each of you heartily on the honour conferred upon you.

DIWAN BAHADUR HARI NATH ROY,

Your judicial services received special recognition by your elevation to the Bench of the High Court in Calcutta.

SHIFA-UL-MULK HAKIM ABDUR RASHIM KHAN,

You belong to a distinguished family of physicians and are yourself a leading exponent of the Yunâni System of Medicine.

RAI HARDATRAI CHAMARIA BAHADUR,

You are a wealthy and influential Marwari merchant: and you have gladly co-operated with Government in giving generous assistance in times of distress.

RAI TEJ CHANDRA MUKHARJI BAHADUR, RAI DURGA DAS BASU BAHADUR,
RAI SURENDRA NATH MITRA BAHADUR, AND RAI NÂGENDRA NATH
DHUR BAHADUR,

You are all members or past members of the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service, and have a record of meritorious work.

RAI KRISHNA KALI MUKHARJI BAHADUR, RAI BASANTA KUMAR BASU
BAHADUR AND RAI MONMOHAN CHAKRAVARTI BAHADUR,

You are members of the Executive Branch of the Provincial Service, and by your devotion to duty have deserved well of Government.

RAI SAHIBS, RAO SAHIB AND KHAN SAHIB,

I have great pleasure in presenting you with your *sanads*. You are all officials who have deserved well of the Government, and I hope you will all continue to carry out your duties in the same efficient manner in which you have carried them out in the past.

His Excellency's Speech at the Distribution of Prizes of the Calcutta Free School, on 21st December 1914.

MY LORD BISHOP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It has been a great pleasure to me to be here this evening and to have seen your distribution of prizes.

This is not the first time that I have visited your institution. I remember,—perhaps some of you do too,—a very hot afternoon in July, two years ago, when your good friend Colonel Harrison and Mr. Stokoe and others interested in the school showed me all over the buildings.

I heard then how great is the need which the Free School has for many years tried to meet, and I realised how confined the accommodation, both within and without, is for the large number of children who attend.

I can well imagine what a boon Kidderpore House and grounds will be to you. Mr. Parker has told us this evening that it is proposed to transfer the Kindergarten and the younger girls' classes in the first place to Kidderpore; I am sure the surroundings of Kidderpore House will have a good and I hope an immediate effect on the health and the education of the little ones. They will have plenty of room to play in as well as to do lessons in. I doubt whether any other school in Calcutta will have more room for play.

This change will, I trust, prove a landmark in the history of the school, and will bring its great possibilities nearer realisation. The school takes a considerable share in the education of a large class of His Imperial Majesty's subjects in Calcutta—a class with whom I hope we all have very great sympathy: and whom it is most assuredly our duty to help. Their children must have education; it is only by education that they can be fitted to fight the hard battle of life which lies before them, and in only too many cases the parents are ill able to afford to pay for it. Few charities in Calcutta have stronger claims upon us, and I hope that now when the institution has such bright prospects before it, the philanthropic public of Calcutta and of Bengal will lend their aid and see that the Free School is enabled to take full advantage of its opportunities.

I am told it is proposed to bring out a Rector from England whose sole duty will be to look after the school. The present system lays a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of the Chaplain of St. Thomas's—a load which was nobly borne by the Rev. Mr. Stokoe—and which is being cheerfully borne to-day by Mr. Parker—but they probably more than anyone else, realise the need for bringing out a trained educationist as the head of such a large institution, who can give his whole energies to its interests. Improvements in the staff and the equipment are also—as I gather from Mr. McClear's report—very much required. These changes cost money—the Government has helped the school largely in the past and will help it in the future, but in addition to this voluntary support

is urgently wanted, and I confidently appeal to the large public interested in the welfare of Calcutta to see that the funds which the Free School so urgently needs, are made available.

● I was glad to hear Mr. Parker emphasise the need for practical training. The great majority of the boys and girls in the institution will be called on to earn their own living almost immediately they leave school, and it is essential that in their training—specially in the last years—this aim should be kept in view. They require not only knowledge how to do things, but also training in character—training in self-reliance and grit to an exceptional degree. Such training should be acquired not only in the school, but also, perhaps, even more in the playing fields. The space available at Kidderpore will greatly facilitate this. The discipline of the Cadet Corps must also be an excellent thing for the boys looking to their future usefulness, and I was glad to hear from Mr. Parker how great an interest every one takes in this—I was glad also to hear the excellent report of the Adjutant.

I thank Mr. Parker and the staff, and the ladies and gentlemen who have interested themselves in the work—for all they have done throughout the year, and on your behalf as well as on my own, I would thank Mrs. Lyon, who has taken the keenest interest in the school, for presenting the prizes to-day.

His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of unveiling Sir Asutosh Mookerjee's Bust, on 12th January 1915.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I need say very little on this occasion. We all listened with great interest to the eloquent tribute which the President has just paid to Sir Asutosh Mookerjee and no words of mine could add to the appreciation we all feel for him; I am glad however to have an opportunity of acknowledging my own appreciation of the work done by one whom, during the last two and-a-half years, since I came to Bengal, I have learned to count among my friends.

Few men have accomplished more than Sir Asutosh Mookerjee has done. As a scholar he stands in the front rank in three great branches of learning. He is far more learned than most men are even here, in Sanskrit, far more familiar with the lore of the ancient Sastras. He has added largely to the sum of the world's knowledge of Mathematics; as a lawyer he has few equals.

- He has always used his great gifts in the service of his fellow-countrymen. His career has been marked by independence of thought and independence of action. Whether as an advocate of social reform, on the public platform, or as a fellow-citizen in the Councils of the City and of the State, or as an administrator and scholar in the University, Sir Asutosh has fearlessly given to his countrymen his very best.

Sir Asutosh Mookerjee has been a champion of the people; especially he has been the students' friend. Those who have the privilege of his friendship know the genuineness of his character and know—what seems to me at least, one of its finest features—his devotion to the memory of the father who watched over his early years and who saw with pride the early promise of his career—and to his mother in whose loss we so recently sympathised with him.

These characteristics are not Eastern or Western. They are the characteristics of true men—of great men—and command the admiration of men all over the world. The knowledge of them breaks down all barriers between East and West.

Gentlemen, I am proud that it has fallen to me to have the privilege of unveiling this bust of Sir Asutosh Mookerjee.

***His Excellency's reply to the Address presented at Jessore,
on 15th January 1915.***

MEMBERS OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE,

Lady Carmichael and I thank you for the cordial reception you have given us on behalf of the people of Jessore town and district. As I dare say some of you know, I meant to visit you on more than one previous occasion, but owing to circumstances over which I had no control, the pleasure of meeting you had to be long deferred.

I thank you for your expressions of loyalty to the Throne—expressions which I shall take an early opportunity of communicating to His Excellency the Viceroy. We all deplore the war and the terrible sacrifice of life and property, but so far as Britain's rule in India is concerned, the dark cloud has a silver lining. The magnificent demonstrations of loyalty to the Throne and devotion to the person of the Sovereign shown by the Princes and peoples of India have caused much joy in Great Britain and will never be forgotten. The war has helped Europeans and Indians to realise their common bond and common interests in a way that decades of peace might never have accomplished. Our hearts feel thankful that out of so great a calamity, so much good has already come. As you say, we are all of us proud to be fellow-citizens in His Majesty's vast Empire.

The war has indeed created, as you say, many economic difficulties; not only all over the British Empire, but all over the world trade has been affected; here in Jessore the fall in the price of jute especially must have brought loss to many villagers. We cannot prevent such vicissitudes: we must in these times all suffer together; but it may help some to bear their losses better if they realise that Government sympathises with the people affected.

You say this is not the time to tell me of your ambitions and aspirations, your local wants and your grievances. I appreciate the spirit which leads you to say this, but I hope you will enable me to take full advantage of this opportunity to learn something at least about your ambitions and aspirations, your wants and grievances. My chief object in visiting the mufassal towns and subdivisions is to see things for myself, and to try to encourage both our officers and the people to initiate schemes for the public good, and to help them to push them on. I have heard much about the unhealthiness of this district and how many people think the climate has deteriorated of recent years. I shall, I hope, have a chance of talking with some of you individually, I trust you will tell me all you can about this matter and give me the benefit of your advice as to what we can do with the resources at our command.

The scheme for supplying drinking water to the town has now been completed. I hope that pure water will improve the health of the towns-people. It gives me great pleasure to agree to your request to unveil a tablet commemorating the assistance given you in this matter.

by your late Commissioner Mr. E. W. Collin. I have learned that Mr. Collin is willing that his name should be associated with the water-works: and if my consent also is necessary, I gladly give it. The Commissioner forwarded to Government, with his support, your request for a further loan. You have been promised generous aid by the District Board. They have agreed, I hear, to contribute 10,000 rupees; my Government will be glad to advance to you the request for further loan of Rs. 15,000 for which you ask, so that you may meet your liabilities to contractors before the end of the year.

Now that you have succeeded in completing the Waterworks scheme, I hope you will go on to tackle the Drainage scheme. I am well aware that the resources of the town are insufficient to meet an expenditure of over four lakhs of rupees: but in similar circumstances Government has given generous assistance in other places, and as soon as you have thought out the question, and have drafted a scheme for financing it, Government will lend you their aid. Do not be disheartened by the magnitude of the project. I am told the scheme is divided into 22 separate blocks and that these need not all be taken up at the same time. What is most wanted in such cases is to complete the main channels as soon as possible, and then to go on with the rest of the scheme, bit by bit, as funds become available. The Sanitary Engineer tells me that a great advance can be made by the expenditure of one lakh in the first instance. It may not be possible for you to do this at once: but it would be well for you to consider the matter, so that when you have funds available you will be able to go ahead.

I am glad to hear that the Jessore-Jhenida Railway is now in working order, and I know from those interested in the district how much this railway is appreciated. The question of developing the country lying to the east of the Jessore-Jhenida Railway and to the south of the Goalundo Branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, has occupied the attention of the Railway Board. They have come to the conclusion that this can best be done by a system of light railways connected with the new Jessore-Jhenida line. With the object of effecting this development they sanctioned last June certain reconnaissance surveys for lines on the 2' 6" gauge. Three surveys have been carried out: from Jessore to Bagmara by Narail and Lohagara, from Jhenida to Madhumati and from Jhenida to Kaligunga by Salkupa. The reports of these surveys have still to be examined by the Railway Board, but should they prove satisfactory, I have no doubt that the railways will be constructed in a very short time.

My wife and I saw something of the district of Jessore as we motored from Calcutta. We now hope to see something of your town. I am sure Lady Carmichael feels very flattered at your wishing to give her name to the new Phthisis Ward in your hospital, and both she and I hope it may prove of great benefit to you. On her behalf as well as my own I once more thank you most heartily for the welcome you have given us. We both look forward with pleasure to meeting you, all again this afternoon at the Garden Party which I hear the Committee have so kindly organised.

*His Excellency's Speech at the Bengal Legislative Council,
on 19th January 1915.*

GENTLEMEN,

Before we proceed to the business on the paper, I should like, and I feel sure that you will allow me, to suspend the standing orders in order to refer to the loss we have sustained through the passing away of our late colleague the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca, and to move a resolution.

Probably no one connected with Bengal, as it now is, was more widely looked up to throughout the Presidency, certainly no one in Bengal was more widely known outside of it.

In a country where the holding of land counts for more than it now does in most countries and where the profession of a common religion is still the strongest bond to unite groups of men for common action, the Nawab Bahadur was one of the largest landlords and was looked up to as their trusted leader by the members of the most numerous religious community. You all know—better most of you than I do—the part which he took in political affairs. He freely gave his strong support to constituted authority, and his influence was a great help to Government officers in troublous times. He never forgot the interest of his own class or of his own community; but he was always fairminded and willing to look at both sides of any question. I often discussed with him matters concerning Bengal—matters especially as to which Government officers and popular leaders have not always seen eye to eye, or those which religious communities approach from entirely different standpoints, I can say with truth that I have met no one since I came here who has pointed out to me more incisively than the Nawab Bahadur did where European officials may have made a mistake or may have failed to appreciate the Indian point of view, nor any one who saw more clearly than he did where there was a risk of those for whom he spoke failing to give heed enough to the cherished beliefs of others, or who was more ready to try to arrange that gain to his own friends should not be secured at a loss to those with whom he differed. His wide interest, his shrewd common sense and his sense of humour won for him the confidence of even those who were most naturally opposed to him.

He never made any secret to me of his belief that the events which brought me to Bengal were not such as he could welcome in his own personal interests, but nevertheless no one could have been more frank than he was in explaining to me how he thought I might be able to help others, and I feel that in him I have lost a friend. His ill health did not permit of his coming often to this Council, but he took great interest in its deliberations. He was looking forward to being here to-day and ever meant to take a part in the proceedings. But he can no longer help us—save by the help which the memory of a wise man who loved

his country always affords. Perhaps that help is peculiarly valuable at this moment. We all feel, I am sure, what grief the war must bring to the Muhammadan community. We all recognise how well the members of that community are meeting their present trial. We know how the Nawab Bahadur by his counsel and by his example was making it clear to all that the loyalty to our King-Emperor which so distinguishes his co-religionists, is in no way incompatible with the fervent devotion to their ideals and to the teaching of their history to which they are so nobly devoted.

Gentlemen, I ask you to agree to the following resolution:—

That this Council desires to place on record its recognition of the serious loss which it and the whole Presidency of Bengal have sustained by the death of the late Nawab Bahadur of Dacca, who, during a long period of years, unceasingly exerted his great influence and marked abilities in the furtherance of the public welfare; and wishes to convey an expression of sincere sympathy to the members of his family in their great loss.

You have heard the resolution proposed and spoken to, if you are prepared to carry it, I would ask you to rise in your places and so silently signify your assent.

His Excellency's Speech at the inauguration of the Canal Area Drainage Works at the Manicktola Pumping Station, on 20th January 1915.

MR. PAYNE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have listened with great interest to what Mr. Payne has told us and I feel very proud that I am allowed to be in any way associated with the inauguration of this great engineering work which has been carried out in the face of such difficulties for the benefit of the people of Calcutta.

I have heard a good deal about the inconveniences which people in Calcutta experience through flooding during the rains. It seems to me that you have to deal with cloud bursts rather than with ordinary rainfall. Three inches of rain in 20 minutes which the Chairman tells us of seems almost incredible to any one who has not had personal experience of the terrible downpours of the tropics.

Many men have had a share in this great work. I feel sure we must all admire the dogged determination and pluck with which the Engineers and Contractors have grappled with the serious difficulties with which they were often so unexpectedly faced and which they have now so successfully, I hope, overcome.

Two days ago I had the pleasure of sailing down the Bidyadhari River as far as Bamanghatta where Mr. Cowley and Mr. Addams-Williams showed me the great stormwater channels which have been constructed and with which these works are connected.

The work now completed will, I believe, bring increased comfort to thousands. It is, I hope, but one of many great works which the Corporation and the Improvement Trust will carry out to prove to the world that Calcutta is determined to be worthy not in name only, but in reality of being looked upon as the second city of the Empire and the Capital of the East.

I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, as the representative of the Works Committee. I congratulate also the members of the Corporation and the Engineers and the Contractors on the final success which has crowned these strenuous efforts on behalf of the people of Calcutta. I am sure the people of Calcutta recognise now and will recognise even more fully before long how grateful they ought to be to those who made those efforts.

I shall now be very glad to do whatever it is Mr. Payne wants me to do to inaugurate formally the Drainage Works.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Prize Distribution at the Dacca College, on 10th February 1915.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The moment has now come when Mr. Archbold, or whoever is responsible for our arrangements this morning, has decreed that the Governor is to deliver an address to the students. I dare say some of you students, though you may be too civil to show it, are a little apprehensive about the length of my address. Please lay your misgivings aside! As an earnest of my friendliness I promise you that if before I leave this hall, I am presented with one of those familiar petitions which show that even the smallest Bengali schoolboy has some knowledge of English composition, I will do my best to grant its prayer. Mr. Archbold's report has given us much to think of. I feel that I cannot do better than refer to one or two of its points. He told us of your triumphs, of the number who have passed their examinations, of Dr. Anukul Chandra Sarkar's hard-won distinction. I rejoice with you over those triumphs. I congratulate the seven students who have joined the public service. I sincerely hope it may be their lot—and I can wish them no more useful nor better lot—to help Government in hastening on the day when a post under Government shall no longer be the only goal for the ambitions of so many of their fellow countrymen. Mr. Archbold has told us of your record football season and of the good results of levelling of your playing field about which some of you spoke to me so hopefully this time last year. I was glad to hear of these things, as I am glad to hear of anything which adds to your opportunities—to quote Mr. Archbold's words—"of passing four years in pleasant and healthy surroundings, of forming friendships and acquiring a good physique." Perhaps for some of you the years at the college will be, as they have been for so many men in other lands, the happiest years of your life, and your only regret about them would be that you did not make fuller use of them. If so, I shall sympathize in the regret, though I need not pity you overmuch. There is never any use crying over spilt milk, and the conviction that one might have done better at some particular time in one's life, if one had but chosen, is often an incentive to effort.

But Mr. Archbold did not dwell on your successes only; he said you are not altogether satisfied with your opportunities for learning, or rather he said—I hope it comes to the same thing—that he is not altogether satisfied with the provision afforded here for teaching; and he spoke of your urgent need of increased accommodation. He referred to certain delays, due in no way to himself, nor to you, which add to your difficulties, and he hinted delicately at the cause of these delays. I fear this is inevitable; until the Dacca University is complete, your college which, I am glad to hear, does not mean to merge its own traditions in those of the University—a determination which is in itself a guarantee that your college will play a leading part in the University—cannot get all that Mr. Archbold wants. Very likely it may never get

all, for Mr. Archbold is a man with high ideals, and the more he gets, the more he will want. Still he is right to put forward your needs. As to the University I can only tell you that I believe the Viceroy and the Education Member of the Government of India meant all that they said about it; and when I remind you who the Members of my Executive Council are—Mr. Lyon, Nawab Shamsul Huda and Mr. Beatson Bell—I think you need not anticipate “any disposition to show the excitability which,” as Mr. Archbold says, “want of confidence sometimes produces,” at any rate in so far as you look for help to the Government of Bengal. Mr. Lyon is sitting by me; he will, I feel sure, spend some of his time in Dacca in considering how a beginning can best be made with the funds available to make the University a reality. But there is no escape from the “tremendous seriousness of the great events” to which Mr. Archbold alluded in the opening words of his report, and one effect of the war must be the delay of much that we all wish for. I was heartily glad to hear how you students are realizing the issues which the war has raised. We in India cannot see things exactly as we should see them, if we were in Europe, perhaps we cannot picture to ourselves the full horror of the war in some of its aspects, but we see things clearly enough to know how much it means for us to be citizens of a great Empire. Even here, far from the actual fighting, we suffer inconvenience, some of us misery. We see the dislocation caused in trade and all that brings with it; we lament over the delay in getting things we want. There may be some Indians who think they would have been spared these inconveniences, if their country were not part of the British Empire. But I take it such are few. All thoughtful Indians, when they read of what has happened in Belgium, must, I am sure, feel thankful that the fortunes of their country are bound up with those of Great Britain. They may not have realized—I dare say many did not fully realize—that other countries besides England have powerful fleets and well-disciplined armies. People here did not know—many people in Europe did not know—how efficient a machine for fighting purposes a nation which has patience and which is thorough in its methods can become, if it uses all its resources of intellect as well as of wealth. European Nations are realizing that now, and we here are realizing it too. We know that the war cannot end till after much fierce struggle or without much suffering, but we are confident what its result will be. We in India recognize now far better than the people in England can, how hard it has been for our Muhammadan fellow subjects with their history and traditions to do as they have done, and show how firm is their allegiance to the King-Emperor. All Europe will recognize that and our gratitude will be great. Both in England and in India men are feeling as they never did before, how close is the fellowship which comes from fighting alongside each other in a common cause; and are beginning to discern, even if it be dimly, to what great results that fellowship must lead. The thought that he cannot himself go to the front even as a non-combatant—brings grief, I know, to the heart of many a Bengali boy at this moment—a grief in which many a young Englishman shares. It is not for me to dwell on this matter. The time for discussing it is not yet. War is raging fiercely,

and for the sake of Bengal—no less than for the sake of England—our army must be formed in every detail, as those responsible for its success think best. But it is no small thing to see that the spirit is there and that it is common to all of us; and the war will have been fought in vain, if that spirit, the spirit of brotherhood, is suffered to die down, or if that spirit does not increase in strength during the years of peace which assuredly shall come. There will be much work to be done then, work for the honour both of your country and of mine. We shall be better able then than we have been to help each other, for both your people and mine will feel proud of each other in a way we never did before, and we have learned, as we never did before, how close are the ties which knit us together. If the work is to be done well, we must each do our share: but we shall need, all of us, to make full use of our opportunities to give education and to receive it. A college avails nothing, and a University avails nothing, which does not help to prepare a man to do his duty by his country. Long may the Dacca College, long may the Dacca University which is to be, continue to inspire, both in the class room and in the playing field, the right spirit; the spirit which makes men do their best, not for themselves only, but for their friends, for their comrades, for their fellow men. By putting before you in your textbooks the thoughts of great men which call forth noble emotions, by the thrill which comes to you when you help or are helped to score in a football match—by these and by many other things your college teaches you. It is as true of every one of you who tries to do his task well and courageously as it was of Toussaint L'Ouverture, that—

“Thou hast great allies;
thy friends are exultations, agonies, and love,
and man's unconquerable mind.”

His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of opening the new building of the Dacca Orphanage, on 11th February 1915.

MR. BHADRA, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very glad to be here and I rejoice with you in the success of your efforts. Lady Carmichael visited the Home when it was situated in Wari, and she told me of your desire to extend the good work you are doing and with this object to build a house of your own.

I congratulate you now on the possession of such a neat building—planned to meet the special needs of your society—and situated in a most healthy locality. These benefits the society and the public owe to the generosity of that public-spirited lady—the Rani Dinomani Chaudhurani of Santosh—a lady famed far and wide for many charitable deeds.

I sometimes wonder how it is that in India where family life is so sacred and family ties are so strong more sympathy is not expressed in a practical manner for those who have lost the protection which the family gives. In Western lands, much is done by the citizens of the great cities for the orphan, and the foundling, for the released prisoner and the outcast, to try to make up to them in some measure for the ties they have lost—perhaps through their own fault, perhaps through the fault of others. Some day probably more attention will be paid to this in India. I hope so! But I rejoice to find that some people in Dacca have realized this responsibility towards the orphans and the foundlings.

As Mr. Bhadra has told us, the new building brings with it new responsibilities. The work is increasing—and with it the expenditure. Last year difficulties were tided over by using the interest of the capital sunk in this building. Now this is no longer available, and you must go out and appeal for help to the charitably disposed of Dacca. But be of good cheer—your work is now well known—you have a habitation which all interested can come and see—and I feel confident that the people of Dacca will not only supply your present needs, but will encourage you to extend your work further and further as years go on. I wish you every success.

You have asked me to unveil the portrait of Mr. Bonham-Carter—a former Commissioner—who gave you great encouragement, and through whose interest you were granted the lease of the site on which the house stands. I am glad that you should have something to remind you of an officer whose kindness of heart and high character are well remembered throughout this Division, and I have great pleasure in now unveiling the portrait.

His Excellency's Speech at the Prize Distribution in the Dacca Training College, on 12th February 1915.

MR. BISS AND GENTLEMEN,

I hope Mr. Biss is right in suggesting that my presence here to-day may help to encourage you in your work, for I would like to give you any encouragement I can. The importance of a Training College for teachers can hardly be overrated, and I believe that we have in the Dacca Training College men imbued with the spirit which will make of it a success, if they get a fair chance.

Probably there is no country in the world which would not benefit by better education; certainly better education is much needed in Bengal. None of the problems which we have to face in the province will be dealt with at all adequately, until we have more thorough and better-directed education than we have at present. I do not think any one denies that. We cannot have good education unless we have good teachers. As Mr. Biss has pointed out, to give them a good training is the best security for getting good teachers; for however good men may be to begin with, they will be all the better teachers if they are well trained. I doubt whether any man or woman ever becomes a really good teacher who does not love his profession or who is not proud of it. There are many teachers in Bengal, I am afraid, who look on their profession merely as a stepping-stone to something else. Teachers who struck me as being very intelligent and just the sort of men who might be able to teach well have told me they are anxious to take up another profession as soon as possible. I don't wonder at this, if what I hear is true about the conditions of a schoolmaster's employment, of his pay and prospects. But all the same I greatly regret it. We often hear people talk of improving the facilities given to University students. It is useless to give improved facilities of this sort, unless those to whom they are given are able to make proper use of them; and students cannot make proper use of them, if their earlier education is defective, as it must be defective, if they have not had good teaching in the early stages.

The facts are unquestioned. The need is admitted. It is simply a question of money. We are constantly told there are no available funds. I trust it will not always be so. For my part I doubt whether money can be more profitably spent than in improving the quality of teaching. In a few instances you may find men with the missionary spirit ready to teach for the love of the calling, you find more of them perhaps in India than in most countries, but if we are to wait till we find enough of them, we may well despair of ever educating the youth of India properly. Other professions are well paid,—at least at the top—the doctor or the lawyer for example—but the pay of the best Head Master of a school in Bengal offers little attraction to a brilliant man, and Bengal ought to be able to get brilliant men to be her teachers and Head Masters.

Mr. Biss and his colleagues here are doing their best; not unsuccessfully, and the result of their work is good. They would be more successful and their work would show better results if they had a better chance. I feel sure of that. The building and the grounds here certainly leave much to be desired: but a site for a new building has been chosen, a site which is sufficiently large and open. The plans have been approved, and though that great cloud which hangs over us and which forces us to husband all our resources, must for the moment, and possibly I fear for some time, prevent the realization of your hopes, you may rest assured that as soon as funds can be made available, Government will see to it that the Training College building is erected.

And now I would like to say to you, young teachers, who are here—that I hope you appreciate the dignity of your profession and realize how much you can each do by your lives and by your characters, to add to that dignity. Just as doctors and lawyers band themselves into associations to protect their dignity and their interests—so the teaching profession should have its association: and just as the doctors and lawyers cast out any one whom they deem unworthy, so you should do the same. Always strive after what adds to the dignity or raises the ideals of your profession: and remember that a teaching college can be just as important a part of an University as a Law College, a Medical College or an Arts College.

I wish you all success in your life work. I hope to come back again some day, for I should like to do all I can to encourage you and Mr. Biss and his colleagues to go forward, believing that you, if anybody, can help Bengal to take her due share in making this world a better and happier place for all who live in it.

***His Excellency's Speech at the laying of the Foundation-stone of
Dacca Mitford Hospital, on 13th February 1915.***

COLONEL ANDERSON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Mitford Hospital was one of the first institutions I visited when I came to Dacca in July 1912. The general outlines of a scheme for rebuilding the hospital were then explained to me, and I was told that the scheme would be very expensive. Since then plans and estimates have been drawn up, and we know more accurately what the cost will be. Certainly it will be great, but no less certainly the new building is needed. So the money must be found.

The site leaves little to be desired. Colonel Anderson has reminded us of its historic associations. From this spot men have seen the pageant of empire pass and repass—the old Hindu and Buddhist Kings—the Moghul ships of Mir Jumla and of Shayesta Khan—the heavy-laden barges of the European Companies—English, French and Dutch. The French factory was situated where the Ahsan Munzil now stands, and the English factory, where the Dacca College used to be. For nearly sixty years the present building of the Mitford Hospital has looked down on the Buriganga. During all those years it has helped to mitigate the sufferings of many a poor man and woman. When it was built it stood out prominent among Indian hospitals, as an example, to which other places looked with envy. It served its purpose well, but just because it did so, it must now give place to something larger and more modern. It can no longer provide all the accommodation which we think ought to be provided.

Our ideas of duty have advanced during sixty years, the hospital is no longer adequate to meet needs which were hardly even thought of when the old building was erected, but which Medical Science has now taught us can be met, and which we feel ought to be met. Through the generosity of the Nawabs of Dacca and other public-spirited zamindars, additional buildings have grown up here around the first, each useful in itself—but none of them designed to fit in with a general plan convenient for management, or thoroughly efficient for service. It has, therefore, been thought advisable to replan the whole hospital and make the best of the opportunities which its site affords. Enough money is not available to allow us to rebuild it all at once; each of its component parts of the new design must be taken in hand separately. I fear this may mean that a long time will elapse before Dacca can again boast with justice of its hospital. If we are to wait till Government can provide all the money, a long time must indeed elapse. But is there any good reason why we should wait so long? Surely there is not, if her people really want Dacca to hold the high place in the eyes of Bengal that they often claim for her. If her rich citizens will contribute largely of their wealth, or if those who are not rich but who are charitable will contribute what they can, the time may soon come when Dacca shall once more be looked to as an example, and when her

hospital shall again be, as it once was, the envy of her neighbours. Colonel Anderson told us of some generous gifts made already. That most charitable lady Rani Dinomani Chandhurani of Santosh has given half a lakh of rupees to construct a ward in the new hospital; and there are others who have helped right nobly; I have just heard that Babu Gour Nitai Shaha and Babu Bhagabat Prasad Shaha have promised Rs. 25,000 to build another ward to be named after the late Babu Bhajahari Gour Nitai Shankhanidhi, and Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Chaudhuri of Santosh has also promised to contribute Rs. 25,000. I commend their generosity and I hope they have set an example which others of their fellow citizens will follow.

I look on it as a good augury that the first building provided for in the new plan—whose foundation-stone I have just laid—is to be a home for Nurses.

All who have had experience of hospital work—or in fact of any medical work—in India, know the sore need there is here for nursing. When I am touring in Bengal, I see many district and subdivisional hospitals. I find the patients are there: the beds and the equipment are good: the surgical instruments are usually of the best—the medicines leave nothing to be desired—there is enthusiasm on the part of the Civil Surgeon and his assistants—but who attends to the ordinary daily and nightly needs of the patient? No one but the hospital cooly. All honour to the hospital cooly who so generally does his duty well; but the patients surely have a right to look for some more skilled attendance than a cooly can give. In Western countries, a hospital without a nursing staff does not exist. Nursing is looked on as a necessity. It was not always so, but nowadays a hospital is a place to which the sick can go with every confidence that whatever else they may get, they will at least get good nursing, and I believe it will be so here some day. You heard what Colonel Anderson said about neglect of nursing. I agree with him in thinking that the results obtained without nursing are remarkable—but how much better would those results be, if every man and woman who went into a hospital was well nursed. How much more ready people would be to go to a hospital when they are ill, if they knew they would receive there the care and sympathy which we have learned in the West to associate with the name and profession of a nurse, and which to a people as kind-hearted as Indians are, would surely come quite naturally. I listened with great pleasure to Colonel Anderson while he was speaking of the devotion of the students—the occupants of the Mitford Hospital are fortunate in having the services of the students—but no other hospital in these districts outside of Dacca has this advantage: and even for the sake of the students themselves it is most desirable that there should be skilled nurses here. Experience shows that it is so in other places, and I feel that the Dacca students ought not to be deprived of anything which helps students in other places to become good surgeons and good physicians.

I hope that the new Mitford Hospital will ere long lead the way in Bengal in this matter, and that it will have a staff of nurses strong enough to ensure to every patient the nursing without which even the

best surgeon or physician is handicapped in his efforts. But a staff of nurses cannot be created in a day. They must be recruited and trained—it takes, I am told, three years to train a nurse thoroughly. I said, I think it a good augury that the first block of the new Hospital should be a Home for the nurses. I think so because I hope that in this way you will get a staff of fully trained nurses ready to take over the work in every ward by the time the whole building is finished. •

I thank the Governors on behalf of my wife for having thought of calling the Nurses' Home after her. She takes a great interest in nursing. She knows far more about it than I do, and could tell you far better than I can the arguments in favour of nursing. She has heard just as I have, only much oftener, the objections which some people put forward to having nurses in Indian hospitals. These objections are based on special difficulties peculiar to the country. I know there are difficulties—there always are difficulties in doing anything at all worth doing. We must not overlook national customs. We must not rudely disregard long standing ideas—even if they seem to us prejudices. It is not easy in any country to introduce in its entirety a system which has grown up in another country, however good that system may be. There must be adaptation, and it often takes much tact and patience to arrive at adaptation. But in the places where nursing has been introduced, it has been shown that it can work well in India, even in mufassal hospitals. Good results were pointed out to me in Madras as well as in Bengal and my wife tells me she was particularly struck by the benefits which followed on the introduction of nursing into one mufassal hospital in Bengal—that at Chinsura—which she visited both before and after nursing was introduced. She tells me that the success of nurses here will depend to a large extent on the attitude of the students; I hope she is right in thinking that the Dacca Medical students are not wanting in the tact and other qualities needed to help in making the system a success, and that we need, therefore, have no fears on that score.

I was interested, as I am sure we all were, in hearing what Colonel Anderson said about the past students from the Dacca Medical School, who in one capacity or another are serving their country in connection with the war. That they should do this well is only what I have learned to expect of them, and it is because I have learned to expect such devotion to duty of them that I am able to say with truth that I never had more pleasure in laying a foundation-stone than I have had in laying that of the Lady Carmichael Nurses' Home, which is also the foundation-stone of the new Mitford Hospital, which is going to prove of even greater benefit to the people of this district than the old Mitford Hospital has been. •

His Excellency's Speech at the meeting held in Northbrook Hall in memory of the late Nawab Bahadur of Dacca, on 15th February 1915.

GENTLEMEN,

I felt gratified when I was told that you wished me to preside at this meeting, for I like to feel that you expect your Governor to be identified with you, not merely in the ordinary functions which he is asked to perform—such as the giving away of prizes, or the laying of foundation-stones, but also in the expression of your more intimate personal feelings. You have come here to express your sorrow for a loss which each one of you looks on as his own. That loss is also mine, and I most heartily sympathize in your grief.

I did not know the late Nawab Khwaja Sir Salimulla Bahadur as many of you knew him—intimately and for a long time. I used to see him only when I came to Dacca on my short visits twice a year, or more rarely in Calcutta, and it is not yet three years since I met him for the first time. But I quickly learned to look on him as my friend, and it is as my friend—in the fullest sense of the word—that I shall always remember him. He was a remarkable man, who influenced, not only his own community, but very many also who were outside of it; a shrewd observer, who had seen the world in varied phases and had learned to know the minds of many men. He succeeded to great family traditions, and took his place with ease among men who occupy great positions; but he had known life too in its harder aspects and had a fellow feeling with those whom fortune has not favoured overmuch. He was generous, perhaps to a fault—and most kind hearted—he never shirked work, and willingly did many things disagreeable to him in themselves, because he felt that in doing them he was helping others. He never was rich as, I believe, his predecessors were. He was not the sort of man to amass wealth. I dare say he could have made a large fortune, if he had liked, for he was far cleverer, far more long headed, far shrewder, far bolder, than many men who do make large fortunes. But he did not, and I thought none the worse of him that he did not. He gave his advice, when it was asked for, straightforwardly, unmodified by consideration as to how it would be received. He never hesitated to tell one where he thought one wrong. When thing did not turn out quite as he had led one to expect, he never blamed others, and always pointed out anything which, as it seemed to him, might be said in defence even of those who had annoyed him.

His place will be hard to fill. We all know that, no one probably knows it better than his son Nawab Khwaja Habibulla—who sits near

me. We congratulate Nawab Habibulla on the high position he now holds, we look to him to fill that position worthily, as his father wished him to fill it. His responsibilities are great. How great he, perhaps, hardly yet realizes. As his father's eldest son he is looked up to by a large community, and Government is prepared to trust him. His father's example is before him. Let him strive to follow that. The remembrance of how his father did his duty will be a constant help and it will be no small encouragement to him to know how much his father was loved and respected. That he may, as years go by, win the same love and the same respect, is, I feel sure, what all of us at this moment most wish for him.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Convocation of the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj, on 16th February 1915.

GENTLEMEN,

I am glad to welcome you once more in conference. I thank Professor Bidhu Bhusan Goswami for what he kindly said about me. I have been asked to convey to the Pundits of Eastern Bengal a message of sympathy from their fellow Pundits in Calcutta. It is contained in a telegram which my Private Secretary has received from the Hon'ble Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, President of the Board of Sanskrit Studies in Calcutta. I will now read it to you—

“Kindly ask His Excellency to convey to Saraswat Samaj message of good will and congratulations from Calcutta Pundits; also my personal felicitations on their successful endeavours to promote our ancient learning.”

It is meet and right that sympathy such as is herein expressed should exist between the learned Pundits of Eastern and Western Bengal—and I feel confident that the existence of separate organizations in Calcutta and Dacca, for the encouragement of Sanskrit learning, will be for the good of all. The rivalry which no doubt exists is the healthy rivalry of different schools and will but lead to the greater advancement of learning.

There is one face which we sadly miss here to-day—the kindly face of my old friend—and your distinguished Secretary—Mahamahopadhyaya Pundit Prasanna Chandra Vidyaratna. There are many here who called him friend—in fact his heart was so large and his sympathies so catholic, that I might almost put the statement in another way and say there are few here who did not count him among their friends. He was a true Pundit: a devoted scholar, but a kindly man with human interests extending far beyond the covers of his books. His enthusiasm and his capacity as an organizer and sound man of business were abundantly evident in the work he did during the last 35 years as Secretary of the Saraswat Samaj. It was, I know, a great disappointment to him that his expectations of seeing the Samaj placed on a permanent footing were not realized in his lifetime. He had fondly hoped that the scheme in which he took so keen an interest would be sanctioned by Government while he yet lived. But the wheels of Government moved very slowly—and he was disappointed. I only trust there are others ready and willing to keep the torch of his enthusiasm burning until his great object is attained.

I frankly tell you I am myself disappointed that more progress has not been made. When we met here, almost exactly a year ago, I spoke of the scheme as one in which I could not hold out hope of an early decision; but I did not then anticipate that the decision would be so long delayed. That there are financial difficulties connected with the scheme we all recognize: and that it is difficult at the present time to get sanction for any new scheme which involves expenditure such as is

involved in the scheme put forward by the Samaj, I know only too well. But if we are to wait till we get all the money we would like to have before coming to a decision on the principles of the scheme, we shall have to wait for a very long time. I most sincerely hope that it may be possible to give to the Samaj at a very early date a reply regarding the principles involved—even if the reply regarding the funds asked for cannot at the present time be altogether favourable.

There is one matter in connection with your finances to which I would like to refer, as the Secretary has spoken of it. Through the lamented death of the Kumar of Bhowal the estate has passed into the hands of other members of the family, and the Kumar's generous subscription of Rs. 1,000 a year has ceased. The late Kumar made no provision for the permanent endowment of the Samaj; his heirs, therefore, can continue the subscription or not as they feel disposed. The expenditure of the estate has had to be cut down considerably, but the ladies have kindly agreed to continue to pay from the joint estate a sum of Rs. 300 per annum, and perhaps in the near future when they find how their affairs have prospered, it may be possible for the Samaj to appeal to them for their personal support to an institution, the interests of which the Kumar had so much at heart.

His Excellency then addressed the Pundits of the Samaj in Bengali.

SARASWAT SAMAJ SUDHIMANDALI,

Ei batsarer adhibeshaneo amake sabhapati manonita kariachen, tahar nimitya aponadigoke dhanyabadh pradan karitechi. Aponara sanskrita bhasar utkarsha sadhane jerup jatnaban, tahate Bangladesh keno prithibir je je deshe Sanskrita charcha hoy, shakalrai aponadiger nikot kritajna howa uchit. Asha kari bhabishyate aponader udyam purna shafalata praptiya hoibe.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Co-operative Credit Conference, on 20th February 1915.

MR. BEATSON BELL, MR. MITRA AND GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of the Government of Bengal, I once more welcome you to the Annual Conference on Co-operation. I need not dwell on the importance—the growing importance as it seems to me—of these meetings—with the opportunity which they give you of discussing the lessons to be drawn from each year's experience; they enable you to exchange views, to work out general lines of policy together, and to help each other to overcome difficulties; and they bring the work you are quietly doing throughout the year to public notice, and thus attract new recruits to swell the army of co-operators in Bengal.

When I addressed you last year, I dwelt on the need of keeping up a high standard, even if doing so should cause your progress to seem slower—on paper, at any rate—than it is in other places. So long as you can assure me that you keep up a high standard, I am prepared to be satisfied even though the increase in the number of societies and of their members is comparatively small. But I gather from Mr. Mitra's report that the increase during last year was anything but small. Although a policy of consolidation was strictly followed, and although a not altogether inconsiderable number of societies which had originally been formed on wrong lines, or which were unprogressive, have been wound up; and although every care has been taken that new societies should be organized only on sound lines, and where the demand for them is spontaneous, the number of societies has increased by nearly 50 per cent., and the number of members by practically 60 per cent., and the capital by just over 95 per cent.

This remarkable result was not due to any artificial stimulus supplied by Government officials. It was caused in part, no doubt, by the increasing interest taken by the public in co-operation, but it was due also and mainly to the energy of a large number of voluntary non-official workers. It certainly looks as if the economic revolution to which I referred last year, is coming on faster than many of us anticipated—and as if the rapidity of its approach is one result of efforts which members of the educated community are making to help their less fortunate brethren. The true interests of the educated classes and of the masses are identical, though this has not always been recognized in a practical form here any more than it has been in other countries. The improvement of the material condition of the masses ought, even if only from a selfish point of view, to be one of the chief cares of the educated classes. The best security for such improvement is the recognition by the educated classes of their duty towards the masses, and we must all welcome anything which points to a growth of that recognition. In the co-operative movement we have ready to our hand a powerful agency

by which to effect improvement; and I trust Government will always gladly welcome the non-official workers who come forward to assist that movement.

But with progress comes increased responsibility; and some of that responsibility lies on Government. The more the movement develops on what I may call thoroughly democratic lines, the better—so at least it seems to me. I believe the co-operative movement, more than any other movement which I have come across in India, contains the germs of a healthy spirit of local self-government. But co-operation such as we are here to discuss, is one of the things which India has borrowed from the West; it is, therefore, incumbent on Government as its sponsor to do its best to make it move on lines likely to be successful, and to help those who work for it to avoid pitfalls such as experience in Europe—where commercial affairs have been longer and more closely studied than they have been here,—has shown which may trip up the unwary.

The sum invested in co-operative societies throughout India is now very great—in Bengal alone the figure is rapidly approaching a crore of rupees. It was to help the co-operator to solve the problems which this increased financial responsibility brings that the Government of India appointed the Committee on Co-operation over which Sir Edward Maclagan is presiding, and to which we look confidently for valuable advice.

Perhaps the problem connected with the co-operative movement, once it is well started, which requires most expert knowledge, is the organization of the finance at the top, so to speak. It is generally admitted that assured backing by a Bank of acknowledged standing—which may form an useful link between the movement and the general money market—is much needed to help the so-called Central Banks here to equalize their surplus and deficiencies. Thanks to a very strong Sub-Committee which considered the matter, we are, I hope, fairly on the way to secure this through the establishment of a Provincial Central Bank. The scheme has met with the approval and encouragement of such men as Sir Loraine Dunbar, Sir R. N. Mookerjee, Raja Rishi Case Law, Rai Sita Nath Roy Bahadur, and Sir Daniel Hamilton: all men in whom the public have confidence. Of course we must wait for a favourable opportunity from an investor's point of view, and some details have yet to be settled. A Sub-Committee will meet within the next hour to discuss the project. On that Sub-Committee are not only the gentlemen whose names I have already mentioned but other prominent men—the Hon'ble Mr. Monteath, The Hon'ble Mr. E. H. Bray, the Hon'ble Mr. F. H. Stewart, leading members of the Chamber of Commerce—Mr. Meugens—the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, Mr. Ironside, Mr. P. L. Roy, the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq. When I find men of such standing prepared to advise as to the best way of making the Bank a reality, I feel very hopeful. I trust it will not be long before the scheme is placed formally before the public. To be a success the Bank must have not sympathy only, but also active support from the

moneyed classes, from the landowners, and the commercial men; and I would most earnestly appeal to these to consider the matter well and to come forward if they possibly can, and help in establishing an institution which, if managed on sound lines, ought, I think, to do a very great deal to increase the wealth of Bengal and make it a good country for men to employ their capital in.

We must never forget that the basis on which the whole progress and solvency of the movement rests is found in the village societies. It is through these societies that we can teach the cultivators who form them how to manage their own affairs. We must not try to keep them in leading strings; we must aim at making them business-like and at developing, especially in the office-bearers, a sense of responsibility. To do this those who work for the movement ought to have a real sympathy with the village people and a thorough knowledge of their habits and their limitations. They must lose no opportunity of impressing on the members of the societies the principles of co-operation. These principles are of greater importance than even the most scrupulous attention to routine details of book-keeping. The office-bearers must be attentive to such details; they cannot be too careful to be accurate, though the methods followed may be simple. But they and all who have anything to do with the guidance of the societies ought to teach that co-operation does not simply mean enabling the co-operator to borrow lots of money at cheaper rates, and on easier terms than he can borrow it from the ordinary money-lenders. I have been much impressed by the notes written by Mr. Woodhead and Mr. Das and others on the necessity of improving the audit and inspecting staff. There are certain things for which the Registrar is responsible, and Government cannot allow these duties to be neglected for want of an adequate and properly-paid staff. This is a view which was strongly held in Madras, and I hope it is as strongly held in Bengal. The work of educating the members in co-operative ideals and methods is just as important as the work of audit and inspection; the two should go hand in hand. The staff should be strong enough to do the work of inspection without hurry, and they should have plenty of time to call the members together and to speak with them on co-operation.

We have to inculcate sound co-operative principles of mutual help, thrift and self-reliance. These do not necessarily follow the provision of cheap money. Good teaching and effective supervision are necessary; supervision to be of any value implies more than the mere examination of account books. It was because I feel this strongly that I impressed on you last year—and I again impress on you this year—the need for great care and caution in forming new societies. Honesty and efficiency on the part of the office-bearers are essential, but a sound knowledge and practice of the principles of co-operation by the members of the societies are quite as essential. The latter virtues indeed will go a long way towards securing the former.

The papers on the subject of co-ordinating the work of the Agricultural Department with that of the officers interested in the spread

of co-operation, interested me greatly. Mr. West's paper on co-operation between the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments and the Education Department, is, I think, particularly suggestive. Within the last few days I visited several of the Milk Societies at Dacca to which Mr. Mitra refers in his report. What I saw there makes me feel sanguine. The members are quick enough and intelligent enough, but they need to be taught many things which have hitherto been beyond the limits of their experience. It seems to me they would easily learn, and they are already considering whether they could not profitably arrange for the distribution and growth of selected seeds and the improvement of their breed of cattle.

There has been a great development of Central Banks; this is excellent in itself, but the very rapidity of the development should make us cautious. I fully realize that things are only developing, but the satisfactory progress made so far, makes me all the more anxious that further progress should be on the best lines; and it is for this reason and not in any captious spirit of criticism that I say what I do. I know from bitter personal experience how easily one may with the best of motives—sometimes perhaps just because of those best of motives—fail to look at things carefully enough from the Banker's point of view. I have been a Bank Director myself, so perhaps you will forgive me if I lay stress on the need for providing all your Central Banks with sufficient share capital and adequate reserves. It is on the proportion which these, together with cash reserve and other liquid assets, bear to deposits more than on anything else, that the strength of the Banks will depend in times of difficulty. The deposits are loaned out. They cannot—to any great extent—be loaned out for periods much longer than those for which they are put in, without some risk. It is encouraging to hear how well the Central Banks stood the strain which recent difficulties in the jute trade brought on them. I have no doubt you have given careful thought to the question, indeed the proposal to form a Provincial Central Bank, which would be the best possible security for good finance, shows that you have. But I know how important the matter is, and I trust you will forgive me for dwelling on it.

Another point to which I would like to refer, though only in a word, is the provision in the most satisfactory and reliable way you can of a link between the Central Banks and the village societies. It seems to me it may not be wise to rely permanently in this matter, on the same kind of agency which is found excellent at the inception of the scheme. It may be worth your while, to consider whether in this link you have not an opportunity of which you should fully avail yourselves for teaching self-reliance. If at any particular point there is a possibility for an individual to exercise good influence, there will also be a possibility at the same point for an individual to exercise evil influence. I shall not elaborate this, I merely remind you that what is sauce for the goose is generally sauce for the gander.

Now I have kept you long enough—perhaps some of you may think I have kept you too long. I do not mind if you do think it. Experts

are always right to look critically at an amateur if he talks too much. That is the balm which those who are not overmuch in love with the system of having a Governor here can, quite justly, lay to their souls. Anyhow I will leave you to your labours, but before I do so, I want to thank you all,—both officials and non-officials. Mr. Mitra has mentioned in his report some whose help has been specially useful. I am grateful to you all for the work you have done for Bengal during the past year, and I would ask you to convey to the members of the societies you represent a message of good will and encouragement from the Governor of Bengal.

His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of Prize-distribution at the Calcutta Madrassa, on 11th March 1915.

MR. HARLEY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very glad that I am once more able to preside over your prize-giving and give the students and staff of the Madrassa such encouragement as the presence here of the Head of the Province can bring to you. The last time that I was in this immediate neighbourhood was on that afternoon to which Mr. Harley has referred when so many members of the Moslem community assembled in the square to give expression to their grief at the death of the Nawab Bahadur Sir Salimullah of Dacca—a grief in which I shared. I know how earnestly the Nawab Bahadur had the interest of his fellow Muhammadans at heart; so I can well understand how deeply you mourn his loss, and how much you must be inspired by his example. He often spoke to me of the special needs of his community. He more convincingly than any other man pointed out to me the facts connected with this; he more than any other man made me feel that education is by far the most crying need of the Muhammadans in Bengal; and he was, I think, glad that I realized that it is in the interest not of that community only, but of all the people of the Presidency, that Government should give very earnest consideration to Madrassa education.

My knowledge of Islamic learning is necessarily limited. I fear I cannot ever expect to become an expert, but my interest in the education of Muhammadans in India is, I hope, a real interest. I would like to help where and when I can; I am, therefore, glad to feel that, in all matters connected with it I can look with confidence to my friend and colleague Nawab Saiyid Shams-ul-Huda for advice.

All who were at the Oriental Conference which was held at Simla in 1911, agreed that two distinct objects were desirable,—the establishment throughout India of special institutions for Oriental studies on modern lines, and the maintenance of institutions for the conduct of Oriental studies on the ancient indigenous lines. In Bengal we have already prescribed a revised curriculum on modern lines for Madrassas—a curriculum which will lead up to the Faculty of Islamic Studies which we hope to see established in connection with the Dacca University; the students who follow this curriculum will be given a thorough grounding in English, as well as instruction in Islamic learning.

We recognize too that there is a great need here for scholars who have a thorough knowledge of Islamic studies in the widest sense, but who have been taught in a somewhat different fashion—scholars whose duty in life will be to minister to the religious and social needs of their co-religionists; it is to meet this need that we have decided in the Calcutta Madrassa—the oldest Madrassa in Bengal—to continue to follow the ancient lines.

At the same time we cannot hide from ourselves the fact that scholars who have received their education solely in Calcutta have not in recent years made any substantial contribution to Islamic learning, and that men with great ability who have passed the highest examinations of our Madrassa, finding that they cannot get all the teaching they wish to get in Calcutta, have to go on to other seats of Islamic learning in Upper India in order to complete their education. My colleagues and I hope that one day the Calcutta Madrassa will be as efficient as any other similar institution in India is; we mean to do all we can to make it so, and that is why we have lately appointed a Committee to revise the curriculum and to make suggestions for the improvement of this institution.

The scheme for providing a Muhammadan Arts College in connection with the Madrassa has, I am sorry to say, not made the progress I had hoped for. We have acquired the land in Wellesley Street, but funds to prosecute the scheme are not available just now, and we must wait in patience for the realization of our hopes. With the extension of the Baker Hostel it is different. Thanks to the great personal interest which His Excellency the Viceroy takes in the students of Calcutta and the thought which he specially gives to the question of their being accommodated in surroundings healthy alike for body and mind, we shall be able to proceed with this at once.

I have been glad to hear from the Hon^{ble} Nawab Sahib good accounts of the work which is being done for the improvement of the education of Muhammadans in the districts by Mr. Taylor, the Special Assistant to the Director, and by the Assistant Inspectors appointed for each Division: and I am most grateful to the members of the Advisory Committee over which the Director presides for the attention they have given to the schemes of improvement which have been before them. I am looking forward eagerly to receiving their report. I am told, they hope to submit this some time next month.

Before I sit down, I would like to refer, though only in a very few words, to the importance of extending facilities for the education of Muhammadan ladies. We must necessarily depend on the leaders of the community for all initiative in this direction; but I am glad to hear that progress is being made. Government on its part has liberally aided such private efforts as the Sakhawat Memorial Girls School and the Suhrawardy Pardanashin School, and I can promise you that we shall do our best to help the leaders to bring such efforts to a successful issue.

**His Excellency's Speech at the Sanskrit Convocation, on
12th March 1915.**

SAMĀGATA BHĀDRA MAHILĀ O BHADRA MAHODAYAGANA,

Dekhitē dekhité ēk batsar chaliā gela. Ei ēk batsarēr madhye sanskrita parīkkhā board, sanskrita shikkhār unnatikalapē kata āyās swikār ēbam parishramī kariyāchhen. Sei janya āmi sanskrita boardkē āntarik dhanyabād prādān karitechhi. Sanskrita bhāshā bhāratbarsher praḍhān gaurāber bastu. Sei prāchīn ēbam sumadhur bhāshār shribriiddhir janya jānhārā parishram karen, sei sakal mānanīya adhyāpakgan, kēbal āmār governmentēr nahē, deshero sarbathā dhanyabādbhājan.

Apānāder chatuspāthīr sujogya adhyāpakganer sāhājyārthē āmi government haitē pratibarshē dash hājār ṭākā brittir byabasthā kariāchhi. Upajukta abasar upasthit hailei, ei sāhājyer parimān briiddhi kariyā āpanādigēr utsāha bardhan karibār abhiprāy āmār āchhē.

Ekhan sabhā bhanga hauk.

TRANSLATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

One year has rolled by since we met last. During this period the Board of Sanskrit Examinations has done much for the improvement of Sanskrit learning in this country. For this I am according my heartiest thanks to the Board. The Sanskrit language is the glory of India; and those venerable teachers who are labouring for the improvement and propagation of that ancient and sweet language really deserve the thanks of, not only my Government, but also of all the people of India.

My Government have decided to give an annual grant of rupees ten thousand for Sanskrit academies. This sum might be increased for the purpose of encouraging you if suitable opportunity would occur.

I now declare this Convocation closed.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses presented at Bankura,
on 17th March 1915.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very glad to meet you all and thank you for the cordial welcome you have given to Lady Carmichael and myself. This is the first time that I have visited your district, but it is not by any means the first time that I felt interested in it. Two institutions of which I heard very soon after I came to Bengal were the College at Bankura and the Leper Asylum. The College justly holds a leading position among the educational institutions in the Presidency and the work done for the lepers well deserves support.

I thank you for your expressions of loyalty to the Throne and devotion to the person of the Sovereign. I shall have great pleasure in passing on these expressions to His Excellency the Viceroy. The British Empire is going through a great crisis, but—thank God!—owing to the loyalty and devotion of the people who have a share in it, it is coming out of that crisis stronger than ever. The peoples of the Empire know that unity is strength and have abundantly shown that they are glad to act on that knowledge; in their close association they are learning to understand one another and to appreciate one another better. The King-Emperor's subjects in every part of his dominions are sympathizing together now as they never did before. The result will surely be to make of the British Empire in the future more powerful engine for human good even than as we believe it has been in the past.

In one of your addresses you spoke of the advantages to be gained from an occasion like this when the Governor gets an opportunity of becoming more intimately acquainted with the needs and aspirations of the people whom his Sovereign has committed to his care. It is a great honour to any man to be entrusted with the government of a province, but it is an honour which brings with it many duties—one of those duties undoubtedly is to learn the needs and aspirations of the people. My visits to mufassal districts, help me I hope,—as perhaps nothing else could,—to discharge that duty, and I can assure you that I do most thoroughly appreciate this. Bengal is a large province. It contains many districts—27 in all. I could not have visited them all during the first year of my Governorship without neglecting many things which I had to do in the ordinary course of duty. I hope you will accept that as sufficient excuse for my not having come here sooner. I have now visited most of the districts,—all except four,—and these I hope to see before this year is over. By far the greater portion of my time must necessarily be spent at the head quarters of Government; I have not had the advantage which my officers have of having spent some years of life in close association with the people in the everyday round of village life in Bengal. I often envy them this advantage, and I think how interesting their life must be. The few opportunities I have had of seeing a little of the life of the people

clearly the importance of personal knowledge in all Indian matters. I can only get that knowledge through the kind help of both the people and my officers, and I am grateful to all who in any degree take me into their confidence as you have done.

To satisfy your aspirations or even your needs the first requisite is money. If we had but an unlimited supply of capital to develop this country, how much could be done to help the people, to increase their standard of comfort, and to educate them so that they should be able to do many things for themselves for which at present they depend on others. But alas! the supply of capital is very limited at any time, and at the present moment when we must husband all our resources until the great life and death struggle, in which almost the whole of the civilized world is involved, is over; it is more restricted than ever. But that is not a reason for doing nothing; we can and ought to think things well out, and get ready to seize any opportunity that comes. I hope, therefore, you will at least help me to take some advantage of this opportunity by telling me of your wants, both great and small. You, gentlemen, who are Municipal Commissioners, ask for assistance to enable you to extend the blessings of a pure water-supply and an efficient system of drainage within your town. I hear that your scheme is designed, so that it can be taken up in independent sections. Government has already helped you liberally in financing the work in those blocks with which you are at present dealing, and I see no reason why the Government should not help you to extend the scheme. As soon as you are prepared to go on with the extension, Government will help you with expert advice, and also I feel sure—in accordance with the past precedent—with funds by the loan of such money as you are in a position to borrow, or if you can show good cause and money is available, possibly also by a grant.

I was delighted to hear you make suggestions for improving the sanitation of the congested area within the town by filling up, clearing and enlarging certain tanks, while at the same time filling up other smaller tanks which are at present polluted. Such a scheme is after my own heart, and I should like to hear more about it. Mr. Cook tells me he thinks a beginning might be made at Kaetpara. If Mr. Cook can arrange it, I will gladly go there, and if, after seeing the place I feel hopeful that something useful can be done, I will certainly encourage you to draw up a definite scheme and do all I can to help you to finance it.

MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD,

You make two specific requests to Government for help: you ask first, for a special grant towards the construction of a bridge over the Darkeswar, and secondly, for a recurring grant of Rs. 20,000 a year until your own income is improved. I am afraid I can give you very little hope of either request being immediately accorded to. As far as the bridge is concerned, I know, and I think you know, that though fortunately we in Bengal have, in comparison with people in some other parts of the world been but lightly affected by the war, our revenue has nevertheless been considerably reduced, and

we are bound to conserve all our resources to meet the essential requirements of the Province. The plain fact is, we have no money just now to devote to objects, however deserving, which are outside the scope of the immediate duties of Government. As to your second request, it is an essential feature of Local Self-Government that local needs must be met primarily by local resources, and that, however reluctantly, local bodies must cut their coat according to their cloth. Government lately took one important step to help the District Boards by handing over to them a new and growing source of revenue in place of the fixed assignments which they had hitherto received; and for this you have expressed your gratitude. I think, however, you take a rather too pessimistic view of the benefits which your district has received. You admit that instead of Rs. 32,134—the sum of the amounts of equilibrium grant and the grant for water-supply Rs. 30,468 and Rs. 1,666, respectively,—you have received an annual income of Rs. 55,000, which seems to me a fairly profitable exchange: but I gather that you fear that the augmentation grant, which you say comes to Rs. 13,750, will shortly be withdrawn by Government. If you think this, you are under a misapprehension. The augmentation grant will only be gradually diminished as your income from the Public Works Cess increases. If the income from the Public Works Cess is Rs. 55,000, and the augmentation grant is Rs. 13,750, the augmentation grant will not be wholly withdrawn until that cess income reaches a sum of Rs. 68,750; it will be gradually diminished *pari passu* with the increase in the Public Works Cess, which is a very different thing. Perhaps, too, you may have forgotten that as the Public Works Cess increases, so also will the Road Cess increase; and there will be no corresponding reduction from this branch of your income. It is true that this district does not seem to benefit quite as much as some other districts do, but there are reasons for this, and the remembrance of these, may, I hope, somewhat console you; for one thing your own contributions in the shape of Road Cess are smaller than those in other districts, which makes the Public Works Cess also smaller, and again Government has in the past paid a proportionately larger amount than in most places towards your expenditure on Education, and therefore you have to that extent forestalled the benefits you would otherwise have received from the surrender of the Public Works Cess. It is for you to decide how you can best appropriate your income to meet the needs of your district, and I sympathize with your desire to maintain a high standard of education. But I am afraid that every District Board would like to obtain Government aid in maintaining some one or more branches of its administration at a higher standard than its own local resources can afford: the Provincial Government itself would, I suspect, be only too glad to put forward a plea of that kind if there were any chance of its doing so successfully, while, therefore, I understand your desires and feel for you, I can only advise you to consider, as carefully as you can, what is the best method for employing the resources at your disposal, so as to bring the greatest good to the people in your district.

Gentlemen, once again I thank you on behalf of Lady Carmichael and myself; and I would assure you that we look forward with pleasure to becoming personally acquainted with many of you during our stay in Bankura.

*His Excellency's Speech at the Wesleyan College, Bankura,
on 17th March 1915.*

MR. MITCHELL. PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS,

I was not aware that we were to receive a welcome of this nature from you all and perhaps because of its unexpected nature we appreciate the welcome all the more. It is pleasant to find what is usually termed "the inspection of the College" turned into a cheerful welcome of this nature.

I can assure you that such visits are never a trouble. I look upon them as a great pleasure, as well as part of my education in Indian affairs. It appears to me that to-day in India there is no more difficult—but at the same time I think—no more interesting—problem than the problem of education. As you all know about 1850 there was a great controversy over the nature of the education which the Government was to encourage among the people—and in the course of that controversy many exaggerations were made—both on the side of those who wished the higher education to be conducted with a view to understanding the ancient classical lore of the East and of those who wished to open out at once to the people the treasures of the West. As everyone knows Lord Macaulay won the day, and it was, perhaps, natural where such opposite views were held that the pendulum should have swung too much on the Western side, and that the education in the vernaculars and the classical languages should not always have met with the encouragement they deserved. The result of the momentous decision is being felt to-day and has brought with it problems that were not foreseen. But after all true education means the drawing out of the mind of man and the building up of a man's character. The form is subsidiary to this, and there are no doubt many examples of success in education in the highest sense in spite of forms. I am glad to hear of the high ideal you place before yourselves in this College. Reverence for truth and loyalty to the King should be the keynote of all educational institutions. The Knights of old expressed their ideal in the words of the Christian Saint: "Honour all men—Love the brotherhood—Fear God—Honour the King." The same ideal has been put in more homely phrase by one of more recent date:

"Trust in God and do the right, be honest, kind and brave."

I hope the students of this College will ever keep these ideals before them. I wish Mr. Mitchell and the Professors and students all success in their life and work.

His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of opening the Civil Court Buildings at Bankura, on 18th March 1915.

MR. TINDALL AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very glad that by accepting the Judge's invitation to open the new Civil Courts I have got this opportunity of meeting the members of the Sadar and Mufassal Bars, and of hearing from them expressions of loyalty and devotion to the Crown.

One of the aims of all Governments should be to provide buildings in which to transact public business which are both worthy of the administration and convenient for the public. It seems to me that this aim has been attained so far as the administration of the work of the District and Sessions Judge of Bankura is concerned: and I am glad to hear from the members of the Bar, who are naturally deeply concerned in such a matter, of their satisfaction and gratitude. These commodious buildings indeed put the present quarters of the Munsif's Courts into the shade, and I am not surprised that you express a hope that the present condition of the Munsif's Courts, of which I heard yesterday from one of their members, should not be forgotten. I fear this is not the only district which is in great need of improved public buildings, but the Government is not unmindful of this and at present a programme for the gradual improvement of all the buildings for Judicial officers in the Province is being worked out to be taken up in order of urgency; and when funds are available for the purpose, no time will be lost. I do not know what position the Munsif's Court at Bankura has in this programme. If the present condition of the Court building is really such as it was described to me, I can only hope, for the sake of other places, that it takes an early place, for if it does not, and there are many other places where the state of affairs is even worse, the plight of those using them must indeed be sad. In any case, however, your buildings will not be forgotten.

I have read with much interest an account supplied to me by the District Magistrate of the History of the Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction of Bankura from 1760 when the British Government first took over the administration of these tracts and made a vain attempt to control Bankura from far off Murshidabad. In 1787 Lord Cornwallis separated the area and placed it under an officer stationed at the head quarters of the ancient Raj at Vishnupur. It was not till 1806, however, that a Magistrate was stationed permanently at Bankura and not till 1879 that a Judge was permanently stationed here. Now Government has provided buildings which I trust will meet the needs of the district for many years to come.

I have much pleasure in declaring these buildings open and I wish Mr. Tindall and his successors many years of useful work in them for the good of the people of this district.

*His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses presented at Birbhum,
on 19th March 1915.*

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for the welcome you have given to Lady Carmichael and myself. I have long looked forward to visiting Suri, not only because I have been told that I should see there a part of Bengal differing in many respects from the parts which I have already seen; but also because I very much wish to visit my friend Dr. Rabindranath Tagore's educational institution at Bolpur, a thing which I hope to do on my way back to Calcutta to-morrow. Another friend of mine, the son of the late Maharaja of Hetampur, has told me something of the wants of your district, but the people of Birbhum have as yet had no opportunity of impressing their ideas on me personally; so I am glad that I am here at last, and hope you will not hesitate to use the opportunity of telling me your needs.

I was glad to hear your expressions of loyalty to the Throne and devotion to the person of the King-Emperor. I will take an early opportunity of conveying these expressions to His Excellency the Viceroy. Expressions of loyalty and devotion from his people must be pleasing to the Sovereign at all times. But they must be doubly pleasing at a time like the present when the resources of His Majesty's great Empire are being employed to the utmost in the defence of what he believes, and we believe, to be the cause of Truth, Justice, and Honour. There never was a time when a Sovereign was more at one with his people in a great national crisis, and we believe that the Empire will come forth from this struggle stronger, better, and greater. His Majesty's personal feelings communicated in that gracious message of September last to which you have referred are the treasured possession of the Princes and Peoples of India. The message showed to the world the place which India holds in our King-Emperor's heart: and by her response India has shown to the British peoples in every part of His Majesty's dominions how deservedly that place has been won.

Now let me turn to your needs as set out in your addresses. These can only be satisfied by the expenditure of a large sum of money, and however desirable the schemes may be in themselves—I fear that the question of money alone is in itself sufficient just now to make it impossible for Government to take up any which are not essential. I have so far only got a rough idea of the nature of your district. The whole of the district may not be like what I have seen, but I saw enough to enable me to realize that the rivulets to which you refer must be a serious obstacle to traffic, specially in the rainy season. I am afraid though that ordinary bridging work must be done here as it is in other places out of the regular resources of the district. Nor can I hold out any hopes to you of assistance in the acquisition of quarries. The Public Works Department do not themselves require quarries in Birbhum, and Government possesses no funds which it has the right to advance to District Boards for such a purpose.

I have heard with much concern of the increase of fever in the district; Mr. Lees, your Commissioner, has told me what you have been doing to combat this evil. I would like to see many more dispensaries in the mufassal districts, and I hope this is a direction in which all enlightened zamindars will be ready to help their tenants if the way is shown to them. I do hope that as soon as your projects are sufficiently advanced, you will at once send them up to Government. If you do, I will certainly see what we can do to help you. As a general principle all recurring medical charges must be borne by local funds, but I know of no reason why some assistance should not be given by Government towards the initial cost of the dispensary buildings. During my present visit I hope to see the charitable dispensary at head quarters and to be able to help you to carry on your schemes of improvement there.

I am glad to hear that you are dealing with the question of rural sanitation and water-supply, and I heartily sympathize with you in your desire to have more money to spend on such projects. Very little can be done in this direction without money. I hope the Public Works Cess Funds now placed at your disposal will be of substantial use to you—they ought to be: but I fear I cannot hold out hopes to you of an increased grant for general expenditure on the lines which you are at present following. If, in future, however, you take in hand some special sanitary project, I shall willingly consider whether money cannot be given you to help in carrying out any definite object which Government's expert advisers may approve and think likely to be successful.

I sympathize too with you in your desire to have a supply of good and pure drinking water in the town, so I am glad to hear you have decided to devote to this object the funds subscribed to erect a Memorial to the late King-Emperor Edward VII. The Government is always ready to assist municipalities in the construction of water-works, and in most cases readily agrees to bear one-third of the cost; in some special cases Government has borne an even larger share. I hope also that the larger landholders and other public-spirited gentlemen of the town and district will assist in a project fraught with so much benefit to their fellow citizens. But the first thing to do is to prepare your project and a scheme for financing it. This will be examined by Government as soon as possible and we will then decide what measure of assistance we can rightly give. Meanwhile, however, I would advise you to press on with the drainage project, and to complete that. It is always desirable to have arrangements for removing surplus water from the town before you proceed to bring in a fresh supply.

MEMBERS OF THE ANJUMAN,

I thank you also for your welcome of us and for the expression of loyalty contained in your address. You refer to the absence of Muhammadan officers in the grade of listed appointments. This was brought to my notice some time ago, and I went into the question very carefully.

with my late colleague, Sir William Duke, and he stated the views of the Government when the matter was discussed in the Legislative Council in July last. Government is alive to the claims of the Muhammadan community to a fair share of public employment in all grades and is also aware of the great advance which the younger generation have made in fitting themselves for such employment. The number of Muhammadans already in the junior grades of the Provincial Service testifies to this; but in the senior grades the number of Muhammadans is undoubtedly very small. You must, however, remember that Government cannot appoint men to high office until they have had considerable experience: and that in selecting men for high office Government must have regard to the claims of all alike, to whatever community they belong, who have sufficient seniority to be appointed. The time, however, is rapidly drawing near when among those qualified by length of service for promotion to listed posts, a considerable proportion of the officers of adequate promise will be found to be members of your community. Meanwhile I can assure you that the claims of no Muhammadan officer of adequate promise will be overlooked.

I have made a note of your request that local Anjumans should be consulted regarding the recommendation of the Committee on Muhammadan Education, which is at present sitting. The object of the Committee is to place before Government the advice of your community, and I think it most probable that the point of view of the Anjumans will be adequately set forth in the Committee's report: but if there are matters in which it seems desirable to obtain further local advice, your request—as I have said—will not be forgotten.

Gentlemen, once again on behalf of Lady Carmichael and myself I thank you for your cordial welcome and your expressions of good will. We look forward to the opportunity we shall have this afternoon of becoming personally acquainted with the leading men of the district.

His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of opening the New Dispensary at Suri, on 19th March 1915.

MR. LAMBOURN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I think Lady Carmichael and I can truthfully say that there is no duty which gives us greater pleasure than the encouragement of the extension of medical facilities to the poor, and if we give you and the people of your district any encouragement in providing such facilities by our presence at this ceremony to-day, we count it not a trouble, but a privilege to open this new dispensary.

Among the many things which those who are blessed with a large share of this world's goods can do to help their poorer brethren, few can be counted better worth doing than what our friend, Babu Rajani Bhusan Mukharji of Kundola, has chosen to do in memory of his father. Many thousands of suffering people will in the future consciously or unconsciously bless him for this charitable act.

I learned from one of the addresses presented to me this morning that in this district there is a great demand for several dispensaries, and I hope that Rajani Babu's example will be followed by others who wish to do good to their fellow men.

I have great pleasure in declaring the building open.

***His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of the opening of the
Duke Library, Howrah, on 22nd March 1915.***

MR. HOPKYNs, RAI JYOT KUMAR MUKHARJi BAHADUR AND GENTLEMEN,

This is not my first visit to Howrah, in fact I have been in Howrah more often than in any other place in the Province outside of Calcutta and Darjeeling. But this is the first time I have come to perform a formal public ceremony in Howrah, and I am glad that my first official visit to your town should be associated with the name of my late much valued colleague Sir William Duke: especially as it was in Howrah that Sir William acquired much of that experience which he placed so freely at my disposal when he was Vice-President of my Council. I am glad too that you should have chosen to commemorate his life and work among you by a library; for I do not think that any other form of memorial would have given Sir William more real pleasure.

Sir William Duke was the Magistrate of Howrah for five years; a considerable period of his Indian Service. It was the period when he was in the very prime of his life—and he gave you of his best. I knew him for three years—at a time when his experience had ripened—and he gave me of his best. I feel, therefore, that you and I have in him the great bond of a common friendship. You speak of your experience of his sympathy with you, his unfailing patience, his courtesy and tact. I could tell you my experience likewise of his ready sympathy with me in my new work, of his unfailing patience with me in my want of experience of India, and of his courtesy towards me on all occasions. I recognized in him a man who had no axe to grind—whose one aim was, as you have expressed it—"an earnest desire to promote the well-being of the people committed to his care." I found that his advice was always based on a foundation of knowledge.

I was very interested to hear that when he handed over charge of Howrah to his successor he modestly said "I have accomplished hardly any improvement worthy of the name in five years," and yet his successor found that during these five years Sir William had raised the Town's finances from a position verging on bankruptcy to a position of financial equilibrium—and not only that, but he had all the time been working out schemes of improvement, so that when financial equilibrium was attained, there might be no delay. He cared not to whom the praise was accorded so long as the work was done and the people received the benefits. His successors, however, would be the first to acknowledge that the schemes of drainage, the extensions of water-supply, the improvement of conservancy, the extension of the market, the building of the burning ghât at Sibpur, were all carried out on plans drawn up by Sir William Duke during these years when to many he only seemed to be employed in the thankless task of collecting arrears of municipal revenue!

I congratulate your public-spirited citizen, Rai Jyot. Kumar Mukharji Bahadur, on having recognized how well-deserving Sir William Duke is of honour, and I congratulate the people of Howrah on having a memorial to such a man in their midst. This is not the first time that the Rai Bahadur has given you practical proof of his generosity and public spirit, and I feel certain you are all deeply grateful to him for the benefits he has conferred on you. I am sure that the Rai Bahadur thinks that the best way in which you can show your gratitude to him is by doing your best to make the Library a success. Your Municipality is doing its share by giving Rs. 100 a month; I shall myself be glad if you will allow me to give a thousand rupees to be spent on the purchase of books. And I join with you all in wishing the Duke Library every success.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Dufferin Fund Committee, on 22nd March 1915.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I propose to move the adoption of the Annual Report which you have just heard read. I think it is on the whole a satisfactory report. It is clear from it and from previous reports that we have had many difficulties, and it appears to me clear that we are likely to continue to have difficulties—some of them very real difficulties. But we have met them well hitherto, and I hope we will continue to meet them well. Not the least of our difficulties has been that of making both ends meet financially, indeed we have not always been able to do this. But we all thoroughly realize it and that makes me feel confident that we shall overcome it. In the past Government has helped the Dufferin Fund very considerably. It has always looked on the work of the Fund as being one of the best pieces of work done in India. But it has always seemed to Government that those whom the Fund has intended to help are essentially people who should, and whom I believe would, be willing to contribute something themselves towards the Fund. With that in view Government has undertaken that not only will it give Rs. 12,000 annually as an annual subscription to the Fund, but it will give an additional subscription up to Rs. 9,000 more, that is up to a maximum of Rs. 21,000, in all, this extra subscription to be in proportion to the amount subscribed to the Fund by private persons. I hope this will have the result which Government wishes it to have of encouraging private people to subscribe liberally to the Fund.

I specially wish to emphasize the desirability pointed out in the report of endowing beds. The endowment of a bed is probably the most satisfactory way in which any one can help the Dufferin Hospital. An endowment is certainly a great benefit, because it brings with it a certainty of income.

This endowment is a new thing as far as the Dufferin Hospital is concerned. The Corporation, in accordance with Lady Hardinge's wish, gave the first endowment of a bed last year; since then Rai Jyot Kumar Mukharji Bahadur and Rai Hazarimul Doodwala Bahadur have both endowed beds. I am glad to hear that within the last few days Mrs. M. R. Mehta has most kindly given a special endowment of Rs. 10,000. If you can persuade others to follow the example thus nobly set, I am sure you will be doing a great good for the hospital.

There is another thing which I should like to refer to—the provision of nurses. As the number of patients increases, so does the need for nurses increase, and this makes a heavy drain on the resources of the fund. The Dufferin Hospital is the first hospital in which a systematic training of Indian nurses has been taken in hand. These Indian nurses have proved a great success and their number is being added to every year. Rather more than a year ago a new development was started, a beginning was made in training high-caste Indian ladies to be Nursing

Sisters. Three such are being trained just now and they are reported on most favourably. This offers, I think, an opening for the well-wishers of India to help India in a most practical way. Splendid training can be given to nurses in the Dufferin Hospital, but it costs money. Hitherto the money belonging to the Fund has not been spent on training high-caste nurses. Indeed it would hardly be fair that it should be so spent; for these high-caste nurses will naturally be trained in order that they may be able to nurse private persons and, therefore, it is to private generosity that we must look for money to provide the training. Rai Jyot Kumar Mukharji Bahadur, of whose generosity I am constantly hearing, has enabled this work to be done hitherto. Possibly other Indian gentlemen would be willing to help in this good work if only it is brought to their attention. Perhaps they will do so, if for nothing else, than to help to provide training for nurses which might be very useful in their own family circle. A complete course of training in the hospital lasts for three years and costs about Rs. 1,400. I sincerely hope that this may be made well known, for I am sure that there are very few ways in which Rs. 1,400 can be spent with a better chance of doing good than in this, and I know that there are many Indians who wish to do good.

